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20th ANNIVERSARY YEAR!

# WHAT VIDEO & TV

Britain's BIGGEST-SELLING TV, video and AV magazine!

APRIL 2000

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## WHO NEEDS A PC? SEND E-MAIL WITH ANALOGUE BUSH TV!

## FIVE ALIVE

Denon's five-disc changer is DVD dynamite

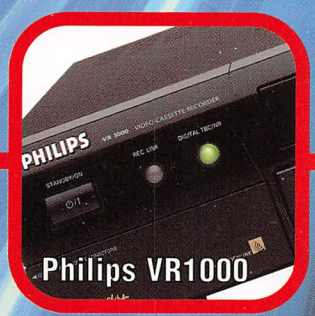
## DTS DREAMBOAT

Hitachi's 43in Illumina TV takes audio to a new realm

## BREAKING THE CODE

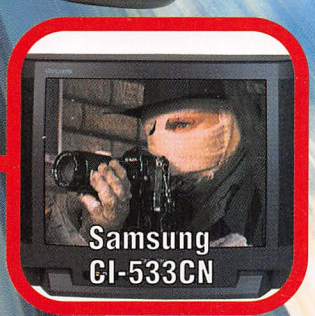
Revealed! The secret hacks which turn your DVD player into a multi-region marvel

Shinco DVD-380




Philips VR1000

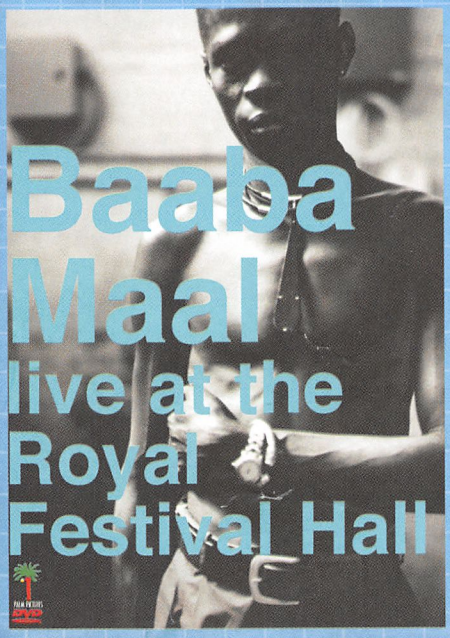
Sony CCD-TR913

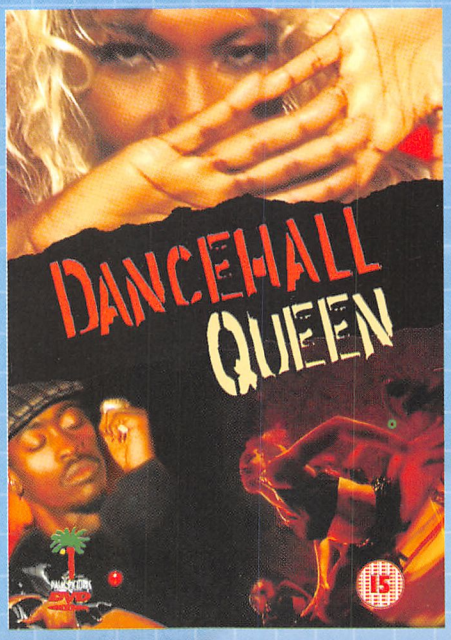


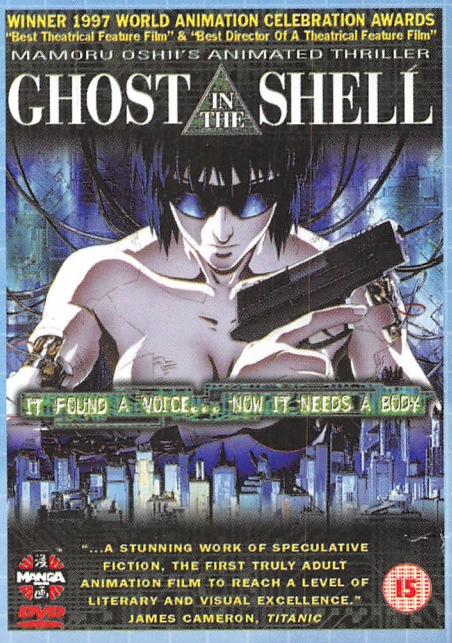
Samsung CI-533CN

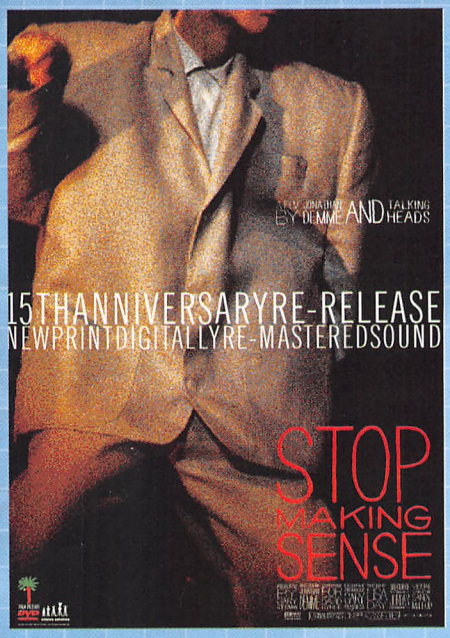
# FORTHCOMING '2000' RELEASES

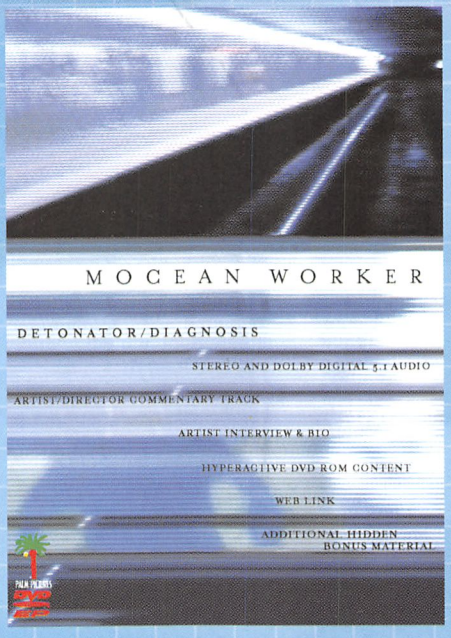
# AVAILABLE FROM 28.02.2000

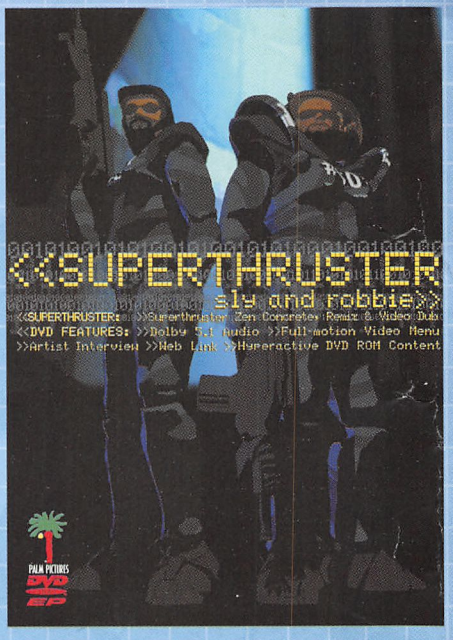


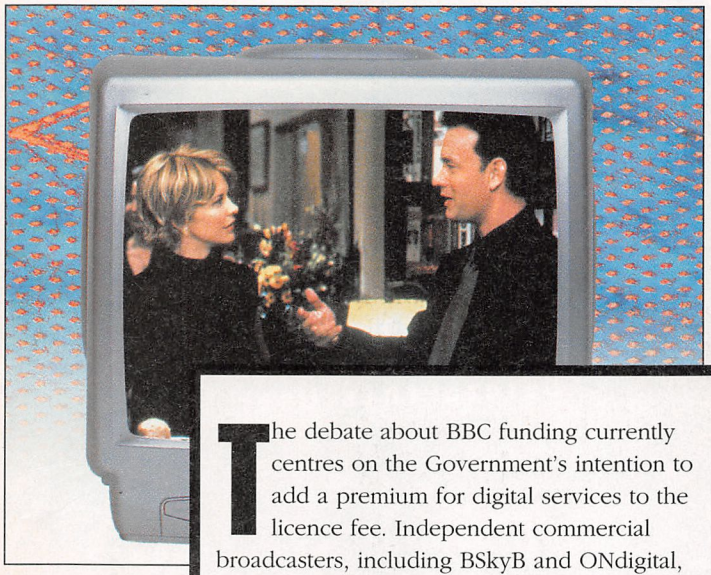

Palm Pictures are pleased to announce the launch of their first 6 titles on DVD.

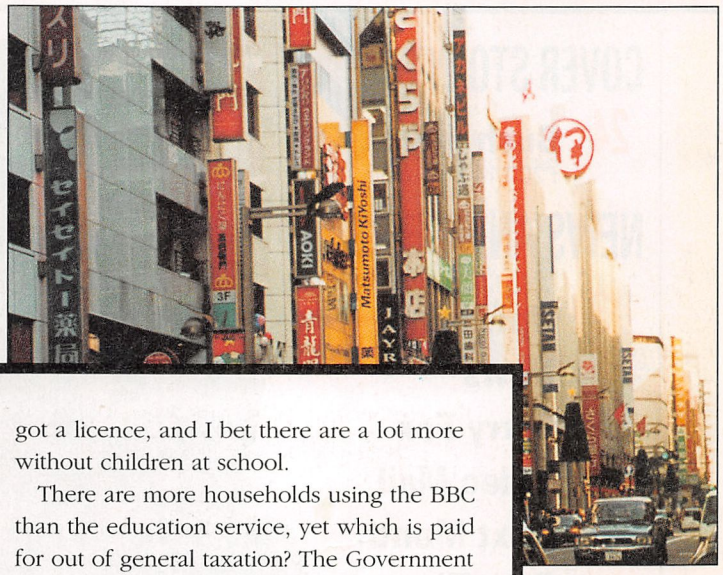
# THE FUTURE...

PALM PICTURES DVD VIDEO

Available from all good retailers.

# A LICENCE TO KILL






The debate about BBC funding currently centres on the Government's intention to add a premium for digital services to the licence fee. Independent commercial broadcasters, including BSkyB and ONdigital, contend that such funding will be illegal (under European law) unless the digital services are set out and approved by the European Commission. They intend to mount a legal challenge in the event of a digital licence fee appearing.

Legal implications aside, the decision to impose this 'digital tax' seems illogical at best, and downright stupid at worst. If the powers that be want to see mass-market adoption of digital TV, the last thing it should do is introduce this ridiculous disincentive.

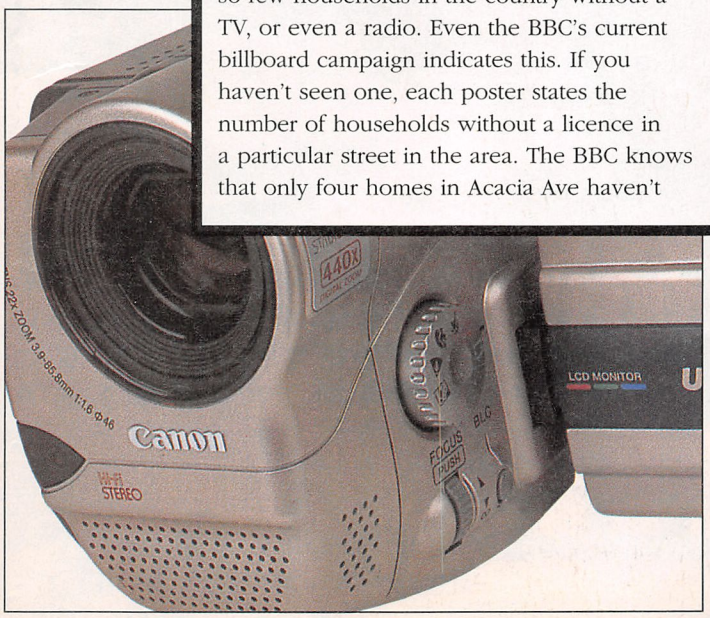
Of course, the independents must fight their corner in the battle for digital supremacy, but there's a bigger issue which needs addressing. Surely the time has come to scrap the licence fee altogether. Why? Well, for a start there are so few households in the country without a TV, or even a radio. Even the BBC's current billboard campaign indicates this. If you haven't seen one, each poster states the number of households without a licence in a particular street in the area. The BBC knows that only four homes in Acacia Ave haven't got a licence, and I bet there are a lot more without children at school.

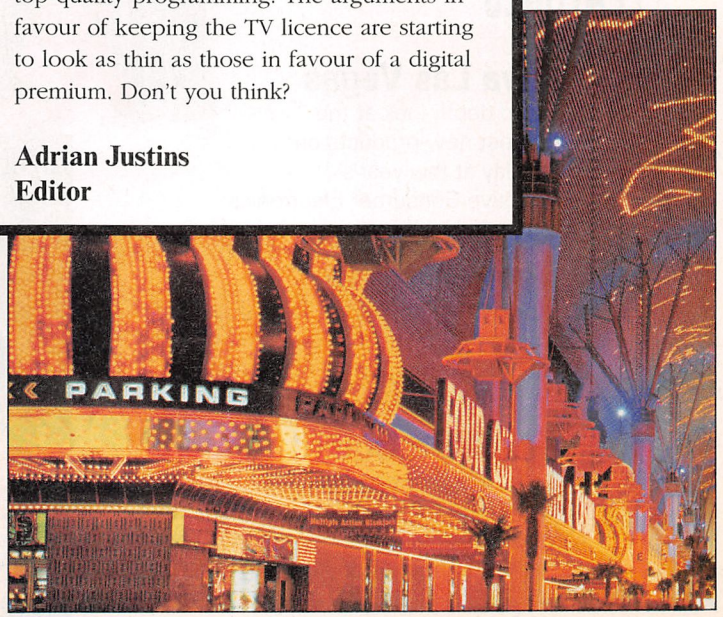
There are more households using the BBC than the education service, yet which is paid for out of general taxation? The Government continues with the licence fee because it doesn't want to put up taxes, and so would rather tax indirectly. It can then claim that taxpayers have more money in their pockets. But why shouldn't taxpayers fund both broadcasting and the education service for the benefit of society? It may boil down to political conviction but, considering how ubiquitous TV is, the licence fee is now nothing more than an anachronism.

**"The decision to impose a 'digital tax' seems downright stupid"**

Should the BBC be state-funded at all? In this age of market forces perhaps it's time for the BBC to stand on its own two feet. Contrary to the Corporation's constant propaganda, its recent performance has been anything but special. Radio stations aside, the BBC can hardly claim it delivers top-quality programming. The arguments in favour of keeping the TV licence are starting to look as thin as those in favour of a digital premium. Don't you think?

**Adrian Justins**
**Editor**



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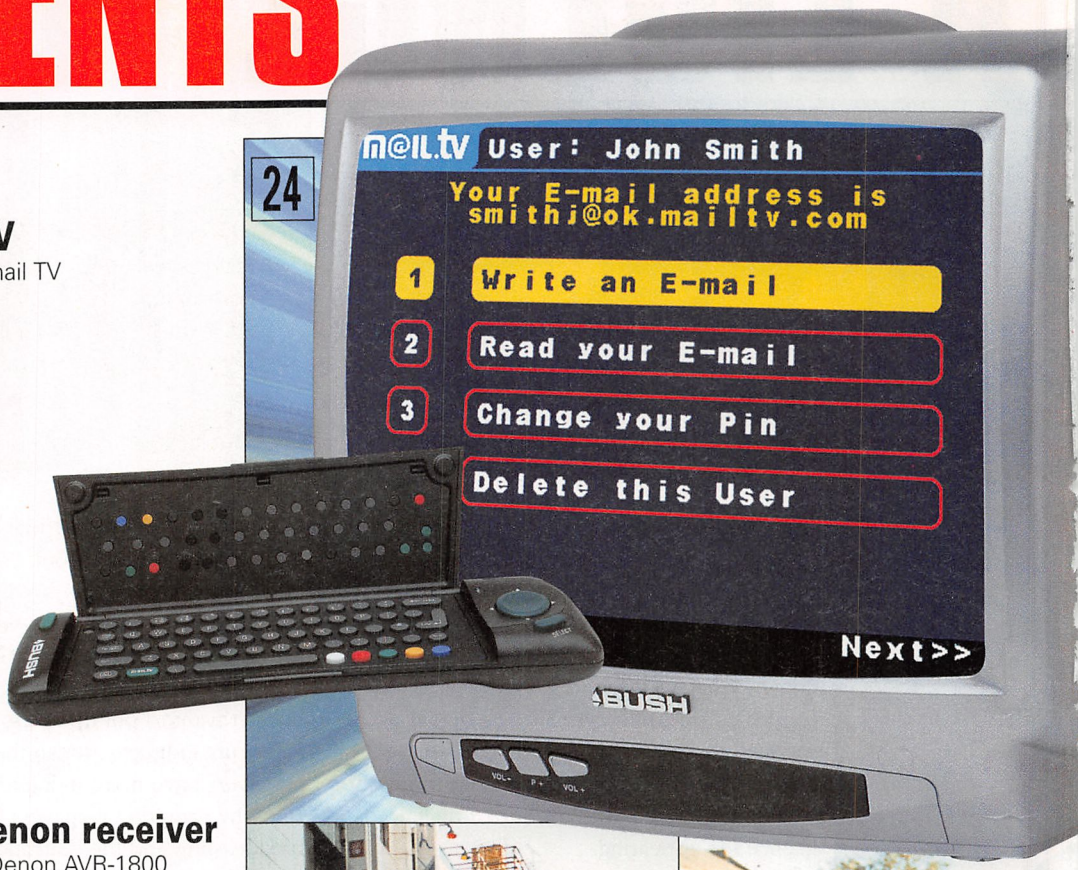
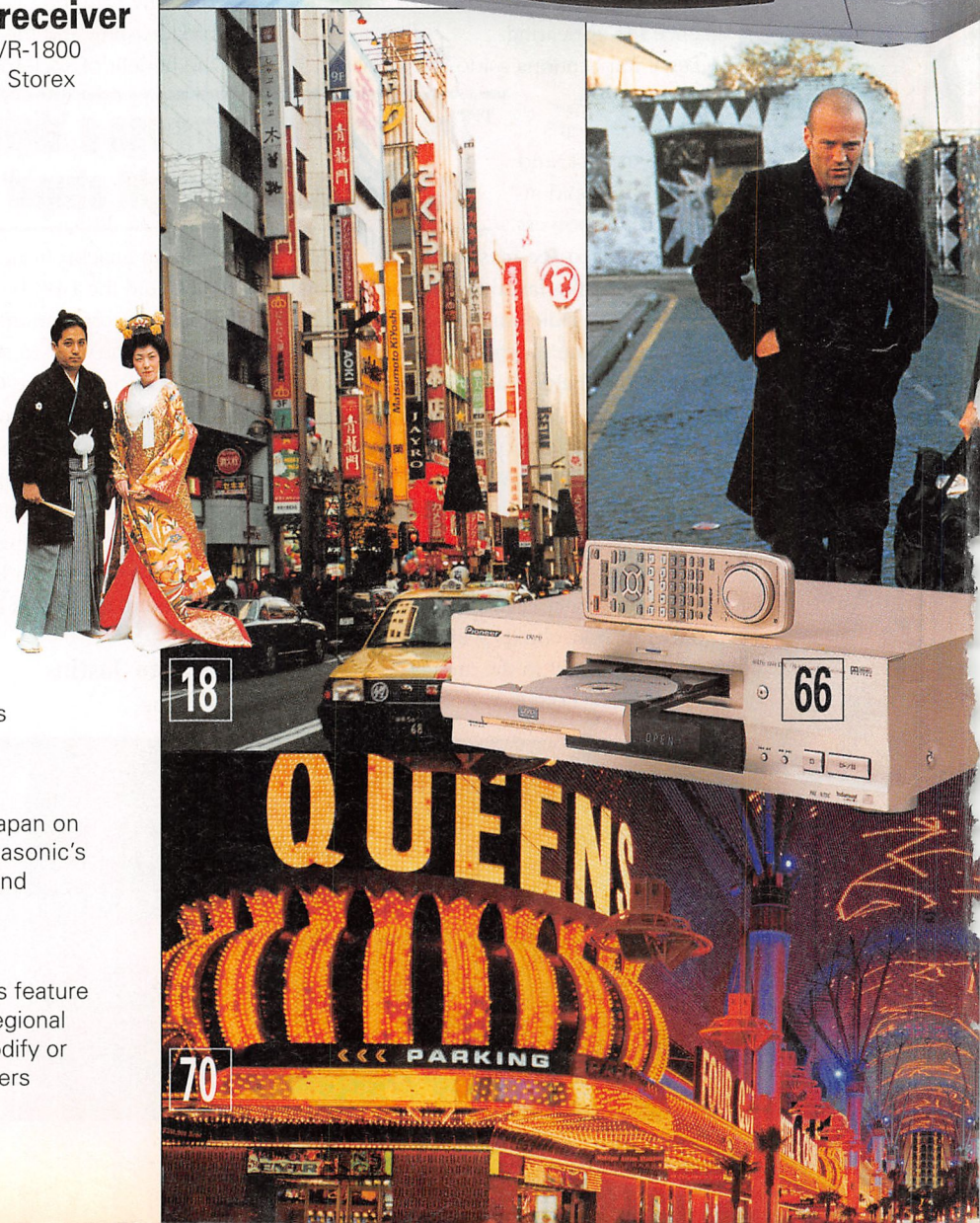
Adrian Justins reports from Japan on Toshiba, Hitachi, JVC and Panasonic's latest developments in VCR and TV technology

**66 The Mod Squad**
Following on from last month's feature explaining the world of DVD regional coding, we tell you how to modify or hack a number of popular players

**Equipment reviewed and tested in this issue**

- Bush 1496MTV
- Canon UC-V20Hi
- Denon DVM-3700
- Denon AVR-1800
- Goodmans W32INS
- Harman Kardon AVR200
- Hitachi C43WP910TN
- Philips VR1000
- Pioneer DV-525
- Samsung CI-533CN
- Samsung VP-A800
- Samsung VP-L580
- Sherwood RVD-6095RDS
- Shinco DVD-360
- Shinco DVD-380
- Sony CCD-TR913

WHAT VIDEO & TV

APRIL 2000

## EQUIPMENT

**45 High-band camcorder group test**
**Sony CCD-TR913** – £600
**Samsung VP-A800** – £350
**Canon UC-V20Hi** – £600
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£320 S-VHS VCR

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£200 Nicam 21in TV

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**56 Hitachi Illumina C43WP910TN**
£3,000 Dolby Digital/DTS 43in rear-projection TV

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£1,000 5-disc DVD player

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**74 Denon AVR-1800**
£450 Dolby Digital/DTS receiver

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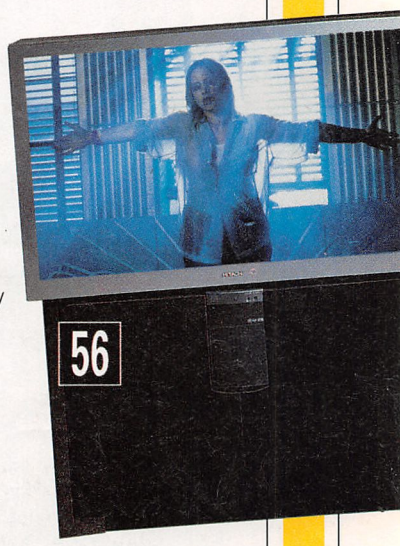
£400 Dolby Digital receiver

**80 Sherwood RVD-6095RDS**
£250 Dolby Digital/DTS receiver

**94 Audio cable group test**




## SCREENINGS

**104 VHS Screenings**
VHS releases this month include: *Affliction, Ravenous* and *Final Cut*

**106 DVD Screenings**
DVDs reviewed include: *The Frighteners, Dumb & Dumber, Cube, Beloved, Dead Ringers* and *Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels: The Director's Cut*

# News News News News

THE LATEST IN VIDEO TECHNOLOGY, TVs, HOME CINEMA AND CAMCORDERS

## THE BEST GETS BETTER

Sony has launched a range of televisions with a claimed resolution four times that of ordinary PAL images. The 36in KV-36FS70, due on sale now at an estimated £2,500, is the first model to incorporate Sony's new proprietary technology called Digital Reality Creation-Multi Function (DRC-MF).

DRC-MF takes the original picture source and digitally processes it in real time, supposedly emulating the picture signal of a high-definition (HD) picture signal.

Sony claims that the resulting picture is of a quality previously never available from a standard television signal source.

The set offers two DRC modes: DRC50 and DRC100. The 50Hz version, DRC50, creates double the number of scanning lines (1,250 from 625), and doubles the number of horizontal pixels (1,440 from 720) from a standard TV signal. The 100Hz version, DRC100, employs a field-doubling technology that maintains 625 vertical interlaced scanning lines, but doubles the number of horizontal pixels to 1,440. DRC100 reduces flicker and smooths movement.

This new flagship set is the first FD Trinitron WEGA which uses Sony's impressive 36in CRT (Cathode Ray Tube). Included in the set are two tuners, which allow two pictures from different signal sources to be displayed simultaneously.

The set sports a dual drive speaker system and DPL processing, with a centre-channel speaker and supplied rear-channel speakers.

Three rear-projection DRC-MF sets with 48in, 53in and a whopping 61in screen will follow during the summer. The KP-48PS1, KP-53PS1 and KP-61PS1 all feature one touch operation Digital Quick Focus, which re-aligns the CRTs to ensure correct convergence and colour alignment in 20sec.

For more information on the DRC Wega range, call Sony on ☎ 0990 111999, or check out www.sony.co.uk

## HITACHI'S BURNING AMBITION

People who like the idea of 'burning' their own CDs often look for a DVD player to be CD-R or CD-RW compatible. Hitachi has gone one step further by launching the world's first DVD deck that records CDs as well. Just one step away from a recordable DVD machine, the DV-W1E goes on sale in April for between £600-£650.

The dual-drive deck – also known as the cDVD – offers 'one-touch' dubbing of entire CDs onto rewriteable (CD-RW) or write-once (CD-R) audio discs as well as specific track selection. The unit also has analogue and digital inputs so that other sources such as LP records, cassettes and MiniDiscs can be copied.

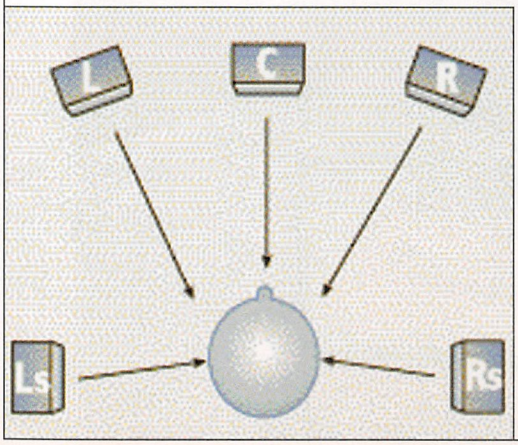
As a DVD player, the DV-W1E has Hitachi's acclaimed Disc Navigation system, an NTSC to PAL 50/60 converter, a built-in Dolby Digital decoder and DTS output. For further information ☎ 01628 643000 or visit www.hitachi.consumer.eu.com

## DOLBY MAKES HEAD-LINE NEWS

Dolby has introduced Dolby Headphone, a signal processor that can be connected to conventional headphones for enjoying multichannel soundtracks in realistic surround sound. Not only does the system recreate a five-speaker effect, but the processor also imparts the sonic signature of a surround sound speaker setup.

Because the processor uses a mixture of direct and reflected sound, headphones don't create the kind of 'in-head' fatigue that listening to direct-fed stereo headphones can.

The processor models the sound of three different environments, from the small, well-dampened 'reference room' to a concert hall ambience. It's intended to work with any product sporting a headphone jack, as well as a range of AV equipment. It can also adapt any stereo source as well as Dolby Digital surround material.




For further information ☎ 01793 842100 or visit www.dolby.com

# News News News News

## SAMSUNG HACKS HACK

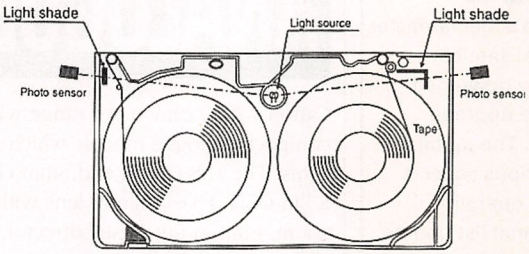
Samsung's firmware update for the DVD-709 seems to have had the side-effect of disabling its multi-region hack. The original version of the operating system made the DVD-709 incapable of playing discs with DVD-ROM content, such as *The Matrix* and *There's Something About Mary*.

Samsung has, therefore, arranged firmware updates through the original retailers. However, in the process the multi-region hack seems to have been disabled, whether intentionally or not.

Previously, it was possible to set the DVD-709 to an ADJUST mode using the remote control for an Aiwa hi-fi, or a universal remote control such as a One-For-All Topline 5, which was pre-loaded with Aiwa codes.

The process seemed to work with some DVD-709s and remotes and not for others, but now DVD-709 owners who have had firmware updates are reporting that the hack no longer works at all. It seems that Samsung gives with one hand and takes away with the other.

## CLEARLY SUPERIOR CASSETTES OFFERED




VHS cassette housings can now be transparent thanks to development work by JVC. Because VHS VCRs use photo sensors and lights to detect the end of a tape, housings have traditionally had to be black or dark-coloured.

The new 'VHS Clear' cassette design specification includes an internal shade to prevent malfunctions, allowing the plastic housing to be brightly coloured or transparent. Computers such as the iMac and recordable media like MiniDisc have recently led the way in translucent, colourful designs.

Users can even categorise their collections by colour, which has been impossible with VHS until now. The VHS Clear specification is available to all cassette manufacturers and will apply to all versions of VHS, including S-VHS and D-VHS.

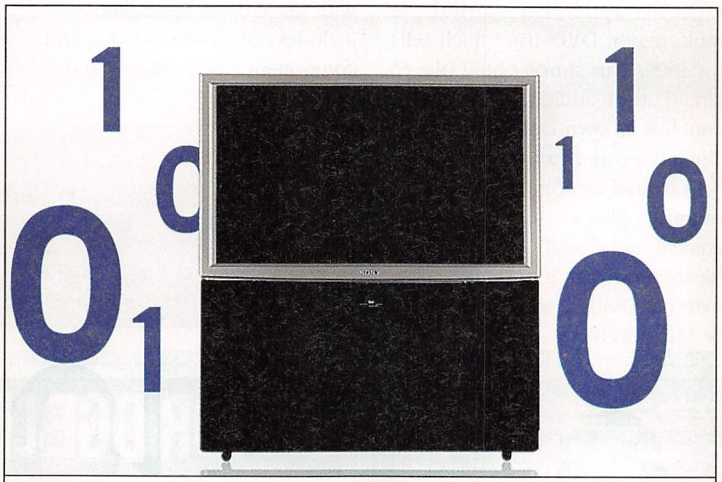
## NEWS IN BRIEF

### VOD IN DEMAND

UK-based company Video Networks, which operates Homechoice, a North London ADSL video-on-demand (VOD) service, has signed a deal with Buena Vista and Columbia TriStar to increase its number of VOD titles. BT is also adding more ADSL lines to allow VOD services, while digital cable brings similar benefits. A near-video-on-demand service, ONrequest, is due to begin on terrestrial digital TV this spring.

### SKY WITHDRAWS ANALOGUE CHANNELS

From April, Sky Box Office, Film Four, Granada Breeze and the technology channel [.tv] will only be available digitally. By the end of 2002, all of Sky's analogue satellite channels are expected to be digital-only. This has been precipitated by the rapid take-up of digital services by analogue subscribers. Box Office events such as sport and concerts will still be available on analogue for the time being.



## SONY LAUNCHES FIRST REAR-PROJECTION IDTV

Sony has unveiled the world's first rear-projection TV with a built-in digital terrestrial tuner. The £1,600 KP41DS1, which is on sale now, sports a 41in 16:9 screen and provides access to over nine free digital terrestrial channels. It's capable of receiving ONdigital's pay-TV services via a plug-in module. ONdigital is expected to make such modules available by the end of spring.

Features on the set include SmartLink VCR communication, an Electronic Programme Guide, Nicam audio and four picture modes, namely Smart, Zoom, Wide and 4:3. Connectivity includes three Scart sockets, front S-video, composite and stereo audio phonos.

For more information call Sony on ☎ 0990 111999, or see www.sony.co.uk

## UPDATE

### CORRECTION

In the February issue we stated that the LG DVD2330 is capable of playing Video CDs. This is not in fact the case.

### COMPETITION WINNERS

The following lucky people have all scooped prizes in recent *What Video & TV* competitions:

Jamie Holder of Liverpool wins a Samsung WS32W6 32in widescreen TV, supplied by Buy Electrical Direct (www.bedirect.co.uk) in the November '99 issue. Anthony Wonke of Stoke Newington wins a Toshiba 28WD98 widescreen TV and SD-2109 DVD player in December's competition. From the January issue's competition John South of Holland Park wins a Panasonic NV-HD675 VCR and Mr A Sands of Colchester wins a Panasonic NV-HD685 VCR.

# News News News News

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### MEDIAMASTER GETS UPGRADED

Owners of Nokia's Mediamaster DVB9800S digital satellite receiver can now download the first software upgrade (version MA1.1). The update will improve various aspects of the receiver's operation, including a channel list update, compatibility with Nokia SatScan motorised dish systems, manual setting of LO frequency and 16:9 auto switching.

The upgrade is available free via several satellite channels. For further information ☎ 01793 556000 or visit www.nokia.com

### TELEWEST GETS INTERACTIVE

Cable operator Telewest is to carry interactive games and sports entertainment applications across its Active Digital service, due in the UK from the summer. Two-Way TV's games include entertainment synchronised with certain TV broadcasts (such as quiz shows) and other on-demand competitive content. For further information visit www.twowaytv.com

## CANON UNVEILS ANALOGUE CAMS

Canon's 2000 camcorder range will start with two compact analogue models which resemble DV cams. The Hi8 G10Hi and 8mm G1000 both feature a ⅓in CCD, F3.6-79.2mm lens with 22x optical zoom, built-in timebase corrector, digital effects and a compact Li-ion battery.

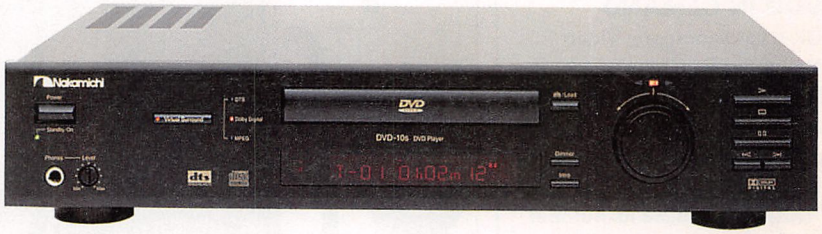
The G10Hi adds a video light, colour viewfinder, photo button and strobe/new slow shutter digital effects. Other features common to both models include Flexizone focus and exposure system, Custom Key operation and six-mode Program AE. The G10Hi goes on sale in March and the G1000 in April.

For more details call Canon on ☎ 0990 111999, or visit www.canon.co.uk

## NAKAMICHI JOINS MULTI-REGION SET

Nakamichi follows up the DVD-10a with its latest arrival, the multi-region DVD-10s, which sells for £600. This sturdily built player, aimed at the audiophile sector, contains its own Dolby Digital decoder (with 5.1-channel analogue outputs), plus a coaxial and digital bitstream output for external Dolby Digital or DTS receivers.

The DVD-10s is also compatible with CD-R discs. Its socketry includes composite, S-video and component video outputs and RGB via Scart. For further information call BBG Distribution on ☎ 020 8863 9117 or visit www.nakamichi.com




## AARDMAN HITS NET

Award-winning Bristol-based animation studio Aardman (of *Wallace And Gromit* fame) is making some of its archive available on the internet. The launch is yet another example of the expansion of on-line film and TV material.

Short animated films, of the kind Aardman specialises in, are ideal for the medium. The Aardman material is being hosted at www.atomfilms.com

Meanwhile, *South Park* creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone are shortly to debut an internet-only series of animations using Shockwave (www.shockwave.com), as is film-maker Tim Burton.

## BANDRIDGE LEADS THE WAY

Bandridge has made several home cinema additions to its Profigold interconnects range. These include a £19.99 S-video-to-Scart cable (ref: PGV672) with a fully screened cable, shielded metal plugs and a £29.99 all-in-one Scart-S-video. Also included are two phono cables to supply stereo sound and S-video pictures (ref: PGV632).

Bandridge also now provides S-video cables in custom lengths at £1.60 per metre. These can be combined with new gold-plated PGV6613 plugs, which are sold separately.

Included in the Scart-to-Scart range are a selection of flat-cable shielded interconnects with metal plugs. They come in various lengths, including the 1.5m PGV782 (£29.99), the 3m PGV783 (£39.99), the 5m PGV785 (£49.99) and the £79.99 PGV789, with 10m of cable.

In the digital audio range are the £29.99 PGD491 coaxial interconnect and the £29.99 PGD572 3.5mm-to-3.5mm optical interconnect. For further information ☎ 020 8543 3633. ▶

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## Why buy a Projector?

For one thing, they are far more flexible than a TV screen and produce a much larger Cinematic image. Also, being able to connect to a computer, DVD, VCR or even a video camera makes projectors adaptable to a wide variety of uses - Business and Pleasure!

## Why buy a DVD?

Because the quality of image is quite simply outstanding. Couple this with the 'easy to use and store' CD format offering all the benefits of a CD (Skip search, menus, perfect freeze frame etc) and you have the reason why DVD is currently exploding all over the world! All our DVD's are multi-region which means you can play discs from anywhere in the world. You can also play normal music CDs so you can do away with your HI-FI!.

## Why buy Surround Sound?

DVD allows you to enjoy a true Cinematic experience both for image and sound.
A 6 speaker surround system playing a Dolby Digital or DTS soundtrack engulfs you in the action and with a large image makes you literally part of the film.

## Why buy from us?

Because we know what we're talking about. We love Home Cinema, we believe in looking after our customers and on top of all of this, our prices are pretty good as well.
At our Guildford office we have a full private theatre facility complete with 8 foot screen, DVD and surround sound, to offer you a proper demonstration without interruption.
Our staff are all enthusiasts with Home Cinema systems at home (we insist upon it), and are rewarded for service not profit.
We have specified systems for all types of scenario, from Mr Bryant in Halifax to Buckingham Palace (yes, Buckingham Palace).

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**OVER 12 YEARS EXPERIENCE**

**NEXT DAY DELIVERY ON MOST ITEMS**

## vision — THIS MONTHS HOT BARGAINS

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XGA
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XGA
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**SONY SC 60**
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SVGA
3.7 Kilos
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**SANYO Xu10**
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XGA
4.3 Kilos
XGA
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SVGA
4.5 Kilos
**£3999**

**SANYO SU07**
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SVGA
4.3 Kilos
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## audio

**Digitheatre**
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A budget solution for surround sound
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**BOSE ACCOUSTIMAS 6**
Unique mini speaker system that packs a big punch - 5 speakers + passive sub-woofer
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**DENON AVC-AID**
**£1749**

**SONY STR-DB830**
**£399**

**BOSE ACCOUSTIMAS 15**
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## dvd

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# News News News News

## PURE DIVA GOES FOR A SONG

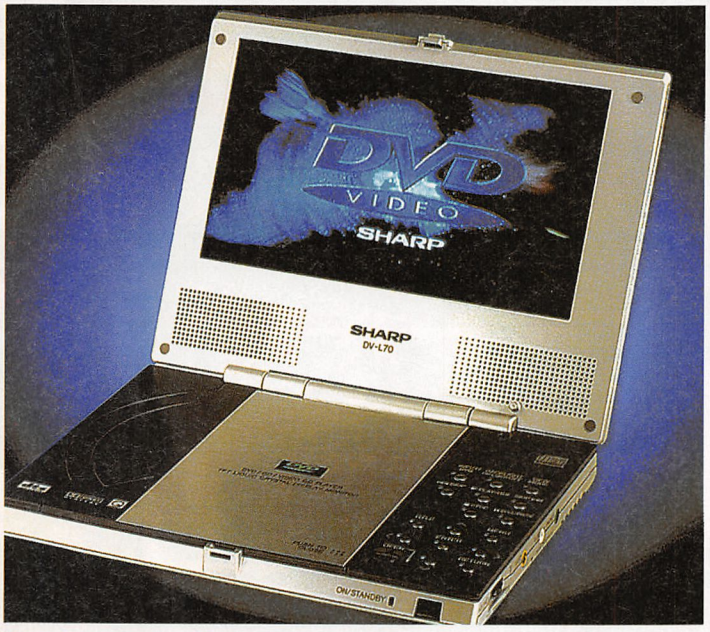
MGI Software has launched its Pure DIVA PC-based entertainment system with the software initially available as a free addition to Advent computers via PC World.

Pure DIVA uses the PC's hard drive and a TV tuner card to create a digital video recorder with facilities such as automatic timeshifting from electronic programme guides. It also includes 'pause TV', which freezes a live broadcast and then restarts it from any point, even if the programme is still on air. In addition, Pure DIVA offers a software-based DVD and CD player.

The software will first appear in the Advent 8737 (£1,300) and 8810 (£2,500). The former has a 600MHz Intel Pentium III processor, 128Mb of SDRAM and a 20Gb hard drive, while the latter is the most powerful with an 800MHz Pentium III, 256Mb of SDRAM and a 40Gb hard drive (for recording up to 10hr of TV).

For further information on Pure DIVA ☎ 0800 973830 or visit www.purediva.com

Paul Ross launching Pure DIVA



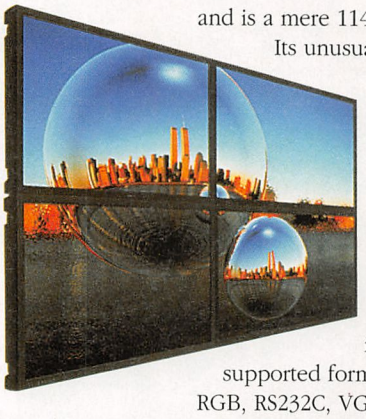

## SHARP SHRINKS DVD TO FIT

Sharp has developed what it claims is the world's smallest and lightest DVD player (with built-in colour LCD screen), the £1,000 DV-L70S. The silver-cased portable measures 188(w) x 25.4(h) x 141(d)mm and weighs 620g. The screen, however, is an ample 7in.

Adding slightly to the weight and size will be the optional £250 Lithium-ion battery which is required for true portability. At full charge it will run the player for 3.5hr. The Region 2 DV-L70S is both VideoCD- and DTS-compatible, and has a remote control and S-video output.

Look out for a review of the next DV-L705 in next month's *What Video & TV*. In the meantime, for more information call Sharp on ☎ 0161 205 2333, or see www.sharp-world.com

## NEC GOES ON DISPLAY



NEC (UK) has brought out a 42in 16:9 plasma display with a range of input options and the narrowest-ever border. The PlasmaSync 42PD1 is priced at around £8,800 and has a pixel resolution of 853 x 480.

The monitor weighs just 33kg and is a mere 114mm thick.

Its unusually narrow (32.5mm) frame border allows it to be turned into a 2 x 2 video wall with better results than other plasma screens. Its inputs and supported formats include RGB, RS232C, VGA, SVGA, XGA, NTSC, PAL and Secam. For further information ☎ 020 8993 8111.

## GAMBLING AND SHOPPING ON TV

Open, the interactive service currently available on Sky digital, will expand its home shopping to include ASDA. From the summer, the supermarket giant will offer products for home delivery within the M25 area. This will expand to other parts of the UK as more distribution centres are made operational.

From March, Open is to carry Blue Square, an on-line betting service that has proved successful on the internet. It will arrive in time for sporting events such as the Grand National and the FA Cup semi-finals. Open users will have to pre-register with Blue Square to prove they are over 18, and all accounts will be PIN-protected.

Meanwhile, BSkyB has acquired the internet domain name sky.com from a US company to centralise all of its on-line properties.

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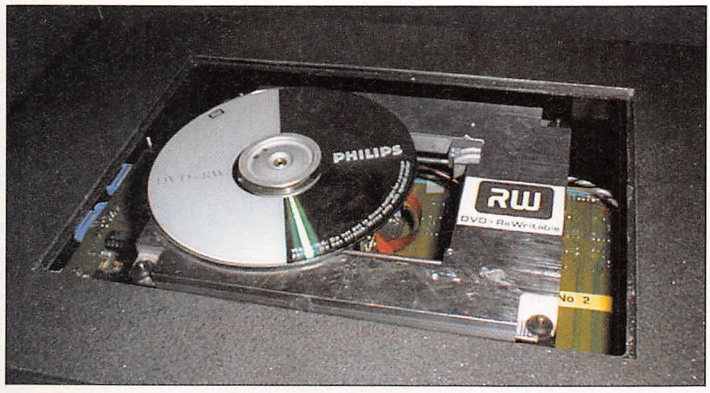
# STORAGE FACILITIES

**This month's slice of Barry Fox is all about recording – on DVD, CD and hard disk. Oh, and ONdigital gets a mention too**



**Hard disk-based recorders – coming soon to the UK**

**Pioneer's DVD-RW – first to show but in danger of isolation**

The recordable DVD format war is hotting up, and the squeeze is on VHS. Ahead of the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas, Pioneer had been claiming that two big name companies would defect from the DVD-RAM camp and back Pioneer's DVD-RW. But the show ended without any names being announced.

Thomson did defect, but to the Philips DVD+RW camp. The all-powerful RCA brand name will be used on +RW recorders when the system launches late this year. The key issue remains compatibility of new recordings with existing 'legacy' players. So far only Philips is claiming this, for +RW, on most players. At CES, a +RW test recording played on a Pioneer DVD player, but not on Pioneer's DVR-1000 recorder.

**"The key issue remains compatibility of new recordings with existing 'legacy' players"**

The fly in the ointment is the copy-protection system used by Pioneer to keep the DVD Forum happy. It relies on CSS data recorded where an ordinary DVD player expects to find index data. Legacy players are also confused by the wobble frequency used on Pioneer's blank discs.

If Pioneer now changes the -RW format to achieve compatibility, it effectively becomes +RW. The deciding factor is likely to be China. Thakral, the Hong Kong-based maker of Grundig, Proline, KLH and Teac DVD players, has already promised a low-cost DVD recorder, but hasn't yet picked a standard.

The Chinese are unlikely to back DVD-RAM, because it offers zero compatibility with DVD players. They initially favoured Pioneer's -RW because Philips has so far failed to offer clear licence deals for +RW. But if Philips gets its act together the Chinese look likely to back +RW and flood the market with cheap disc recorders that offer the first viable alternative to VHS tape.

## PERSONAL SERVICES

But DVD-R is by no means the only format in town. A personal video recorder (PVR) that uses a magnetic hard disk may be a more attractive consumer product. In the US, Philips already sells TiVo and Sony will soon launch a similar model. Panasonic backs the rival Replay. Thomson is working with Microsoft. In the UK, Pace is working with Rupert Murdoch's NDS on XTV.

Disk capacities are already at 30Gb, giving around 30hr of fair-quality MPEG-2 video. This explosion in hard disk capacity is thanks to a new material from IBM – known as Giant Magneto Resistive – which is used for the playback heads.

GMR is a multi-layer sandwich which can reliably read the very faint magnetic signals that the tiny recorded marks create. Virtually all new hard drives now use GMR and their capacity for cost and size is increasing by 120 per cent every year, with no sign yet of any slowdown.

Although hard disks are useless for archiving, because the disk remains fixed in the PVR, selected programmes can be dumped onto VHS tape – or blank DVD. And not to be left left out, one Chinese company is promising a $300 PVR that records 74min onto a blank 650Mb CD, currently costing around 50p.

## SNEAKY SONY

Do be sure to read the small print, though. So far anyone buying a PVR must pay a monthly subscription of $10 to download the TV schedules needed for programming.

The Pace/NDS PVR box is likely to work only with Sky's digital satellite receivers.

Sony UK recently announced a CD-recorder drive that connects to a PC by a simple-to-use USB plug, and 'allows users to download video footage from a Sony HandyCam or other digital camcorder to a PC and burn it onto a CD.

'The resulting Video CD can be played back on a consumer DVD player and TV set,' says Sony. 'A small step for mankind, but certainly a taste of things to come.'

I asked how this is possible, knowing that a digital camcorder codes the pictures to the DV standard, which is completely different from the MPEG-1 format used on a Video CD.

Does the CD writer perform the tricky conversion between DV and MPEG, and then format the data according to the White Book Video CD standard?

My question was referred to Sony's technical expert in Munich, who replied with a gobbledegook answer which I did not even pretend to understand. So I asked again for a clear explanation of how the Sony CD writer performs the clever trick. The simple explanation is that it doesn't.

You will need 'an OHCI-compliant DV/i.Link board, which will cost you about £80 if you don't already have one.' You will also need 'video capture software and/or an MPEG-1 encoder'.

'The easiest way in Windows,' says Sony, 'is to use the Ulead Video Studio or Adobe Premiere to capture an AVI file from DV, then encode it to MPEG-1 [Video CD] format using WinOnCD.'

Tough luck for anyone who buys the Sony CD-RW drive believing the publicity promise that it lets the user burn a Video CD by connecting the drive to a digital camcorder. Tough luck too for any dealer who sells the drive, and then has to try and explain to a puzzled customer how to make it do what the marketing blurb promised ❐

# LATE SHOW ON TV

And finally, ONdigital. The company launched with all the stuff-Sky goodwill in the world, but has been busy squandering it. With a straight face, new chief executive Stuart Prebble started the year by looking his Autocue in the eye and reading the scripted assurance that the year-late digital teletext roll-out 'began in the autumn and will be complete in the next few weeks'.

Upgrading of Philips set-top boxes (STBs) began in November. 'I regard November as autumn,' says Prebble, refusing to specify how many weeks is a few.

His clued-up engineers now explain that ONdigital is currently upgrading 12,500 STBs a week, by sending out leaflets which tell customers what buttons to press. This has put a tremendous load on the Call Centre as it struggles to deal with puzzled viewers. By mid-January ONdigital was still working through Philips boxes and will then start on STBs from Nokia, Pace, Toshiba, Pioneer, Bush, Sony and Samsung.

**Digital Teletext – have you got it yet?**

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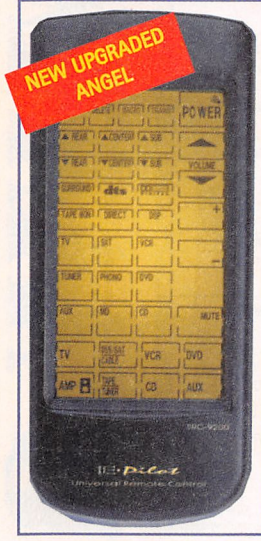


The acclaimed Angel Remote control has now been upgraded, updated and re-named. With more memory, more functions and remodelled touch screen logos. Ideal for any TV, Satellite, VCR, DVD, Surround Amp., Tuner, CD, etc. Automatic Backlight control with adjustable sensor control for easy viewing in the dark. It now supports Teletext, Digital Satellite & TV and has faster learning facilities than the old Angel. More Macro functions and changeable button Icon layout make this the ideal companion for any Home Cinema system. E-Pilot £79.95

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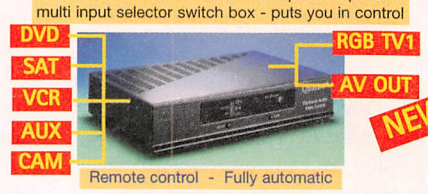


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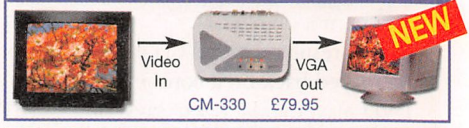


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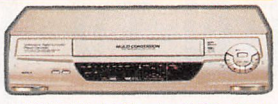

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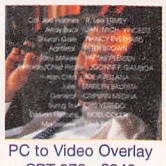

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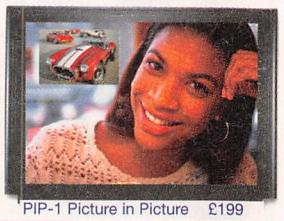

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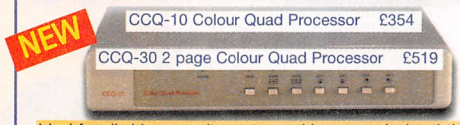


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## D-VHS DELIGHT

I am the happy owner of the first D-VHS recorder in the UK, the JVC HM-DR10000 (bought at Harrods!). I have had many JVC, Panasonic and Sony VCRs over the years (in all formats), starting with the first domestic Philips VCR in 1974.

As D-VHS cassettes are not yet available I have had to use VHS and S-VHS tapes to test this machine, via the composite inputs of a Sony WEGA 26in widescreen TV.

I have never seen such amazing quality from regular VHS tapes in my life. Even programmes recorded on older machines play back with an astounding stability and contrast range.

The only serious shortcomings I can find are: first, the lack of a manual audio level control and second, the inability to dub digital or other hi-fi soundtracks. The handbook doesn't even mention dubbing the linear track!

**Trevor Spiro**
**via e-mail**

*It's true about the missing features you mention, which is a shame, but this recorder is really intended as a very high-quality timeshifting or archiving machine rather than as an edit deck. Perhaps future models may be enhanced in this way.*

## WIDE OF THE MARK

**Some VCRs can auto switch to record in 16:9 mode**

I was very interested in your review of Aiwa's HV-FX5100 VCR in your February '99 edition (p50). It sounds like a great buy. However, although the Sharp VC-MH742HM scored lower marks, the specification said it was 16:9-compatible. What will the Sharp do that the Aiwa will not?

I'm thinking of getting a widescreen TV and digital set-top box (STB). If I recorded a widescreen broadcast from the STB into the VCR, would I be able to play it back in 16:9 mode and enjoy a widescreen picture on a widescreen TV?

**Roger Corte**
**Via e-mail**

*If a VCR is 16:9-compatible, the automatic WSS (widescreen signal) that triggers 16:9 TVs to adjust the screen mode to suit is also stored by the '16:9' VCR.*

*Otherwise, just manually select the correct mode on the TV yourself. You won't lose anything, picture-wise, by recording an anamorphic 16:9 image on the Aiwa or any similar VCR.*

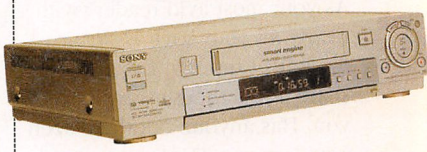
## A HAPPY CUSTOMER

I'd like to highlight the excellent treatment and service I have received from JVC and Audio Visual Services, Liverpool. Four years ago I bought an expensive JVC Nicam VCR, which gave excellent service until November '99 when a tape got stuck. As I had cancelled my extended guarantee only months before, I took the machine to AVS, who examined it and declared it uneconomical to repair.

I contacted JVC who in turn liaised with AVS. I was given a brand-new top-of-the-range Nicam VCR, completely free of charge. How's that for service?

**Neil Jones**
**Runcorn**

## BOXED IN



My Sony SLV-SF99 'flagship' VCR can't control my Sky digital Panasonic STB. All the commands are processed twice. Sky says that nothing is wrong with the box so will not change it for a Pace box.

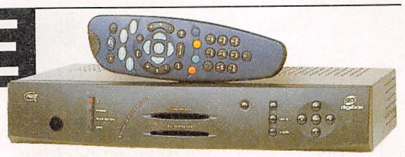
Sony says that it doesn't guarantee the VCR will work with all STBs, so tough luck. Is this the end of the road for my query?

**Glenn Cox**
**via e-mail**

*We encountered this problem ourselves (since printing the review, we must add) in a Panasonic digibox after about a week of average use.*

*We reported this to Sony who said that the problem lies with the latest Panasonic Sky digibox which unexpectedly uses a different set of handset codes to all other digiboxes. If possible, swapping to a different brand of digibox will probably solve this problem. Unfortunately the 'rogue' Panasonic box will not be compatible with Sony's SF99, though revisions will be built into its next set-top box controlling VCR, due in the autumn.*

## PERFECT PDC PLEASE



Can any PDC-compatible VCRs trigger recording from an AV input, rather than the TV tuner when in timer mode? If you wanted to record a digital broadcast (where PDC doesn't work), this feature would allow you to use the terrestrial analogue PDC signal to trigger the recording from the digital transmission.

**Keith Piggott**
**via e-mail**

*A more likely solution would be to improve the link between set-top boxes and VCRs (some decoders can trigger receptive VCRs when they are activated). Of course, that also means that STB timers need to be improved or, in the case of Sky digital, introduced in the first place through an over-air software download (it could be months before this happens).*

*By 2001 there will be a Pace hard-drive recorder built into an STB for Sky digital, which should solve such timeshifting problems.*

# VIDEO MAIL

## OUR NUMBER ONE FAN

As your most avid reader (with nearly all your back issues in my loft!) I thought I would share a few thoughts with you. Has anyone out there seen a widescreen TV demonstrated in any shop showing anything other than a blown up 4:3 image. No, I thought not!

Also, why have the manufacturers decided to clothe their new widescreen sets in silver or grey? Not only is the shiny surround to the picture annoying, but my amp, speakers, etc are all black. I'm about to buy a widescreen set, but would like to find one that's colour-coordinated with my other kit.

Lastly, why is a CD-sized disc supplied in a whopping great box that's only marginally thinner than a VHS box and exactly the same width? Furthermore, DVDs come in various different boxes. Some are rather natty, Perspex creations offering good protection, while others are cardboard and plastic! Why don't they just use CD-sized cases instead of boxes almost as big as VHS containers?

**Richard Malin**
**via e-mail**

*Most people hate the Perspex DVD cases as they're heavy, fragile and hard to open, but we agree, Warner's cardboard is a very bad idea! Our guess is that DVD cases are larger than CDs so they don't get muddled up in people's collections. At least they are a bit lighter than VHS cassettes.*

*On the subject of silver TVs, it's a matter of personal taste really, but we do think consumers should have a choice (many offer silver and black varieties). If you have a pale wall behind your TV, a silver set's border actually blends in very well, which is probably more important than matching the equipment that you're not looking at anyway.*

## R2 IN THE BUSH?

**Bush DVD2000 will play some R1 discs**

In your Feb '00 issue (p74) you tested the Bush DVD2000, and stated that it would play Region 1 discs. Is this still the case?

I purchased a Bush DVD2000 in December '99 which sported a sticker stating that it was not designed to play Region 1 – but it didn't say it wouldn't. The manual however, says it only plays Region 2. Is there any way of checking whether it plays Region 1 discs?

**Gavin Howells**
**via e-mail**

*The vast majority of players on sale in Europe are supposed to be Region 2-only in their factory-set position. The Bush DVD2000, though it implies it's Region 2-only, has been found to play some Region 1 titles – as alluded to in our review.*

*Some Hollywood studios' discs will not play however, and at this stage, it's something of a trial-and-error process. You can always have the player 'chipped' (see our regional coding feature on p68 for more information).*

## TOSH TORMENT

I am writing to you as a very frustrated Toshiba customer. In December I spent £1,700 on a Toshiba 32ZD98B TV and SD2109B DVD player from Sound & Vision, Bolton. Everything worked fine, so I recently decided to buy a VCR to complement my setup.

I spoke to Sound & Vision and asked it to recommend a Toshiba VCR that would be compatible with my TV remote control, had Nicam, VideoPlus and satellite control for my Grundig Sky digibox.

The suggestion was the Toshiba V-859B. All the functions work perfectly, apart from the satellite control. I called Toshiba on its customer service line, and was told that this model only controls analogue satellite boxes.

I spoke to Sound & Vision who said it would check with its Toshiba rep. He confirmed the situation and said that it was something to do with VideoPlus and digital satellite channel numbering.

Sound & Vision was great and has offered me a Panasonic NV-HD685 for £25 extra, which I know is a good deal. But surely Toshiba should ensure that a satellite-controlling VCR works with Sky digiboxes, as analogue will shortly be switched off.

By the way, you didn't clarify that satellite control meant analogue-only in your review (September '99, p54).

**Andy Bennett**
**via e-mail**

*As the other letters this month on this subject show, there are still many issues being ironed out regarding digital set-top box control. Until the latter part of last year, it was virtually impossible to find any VCR with digibox control. We're sure that both manufacturers' product information (and our own reviews!) will be clearer on this issue in future.*

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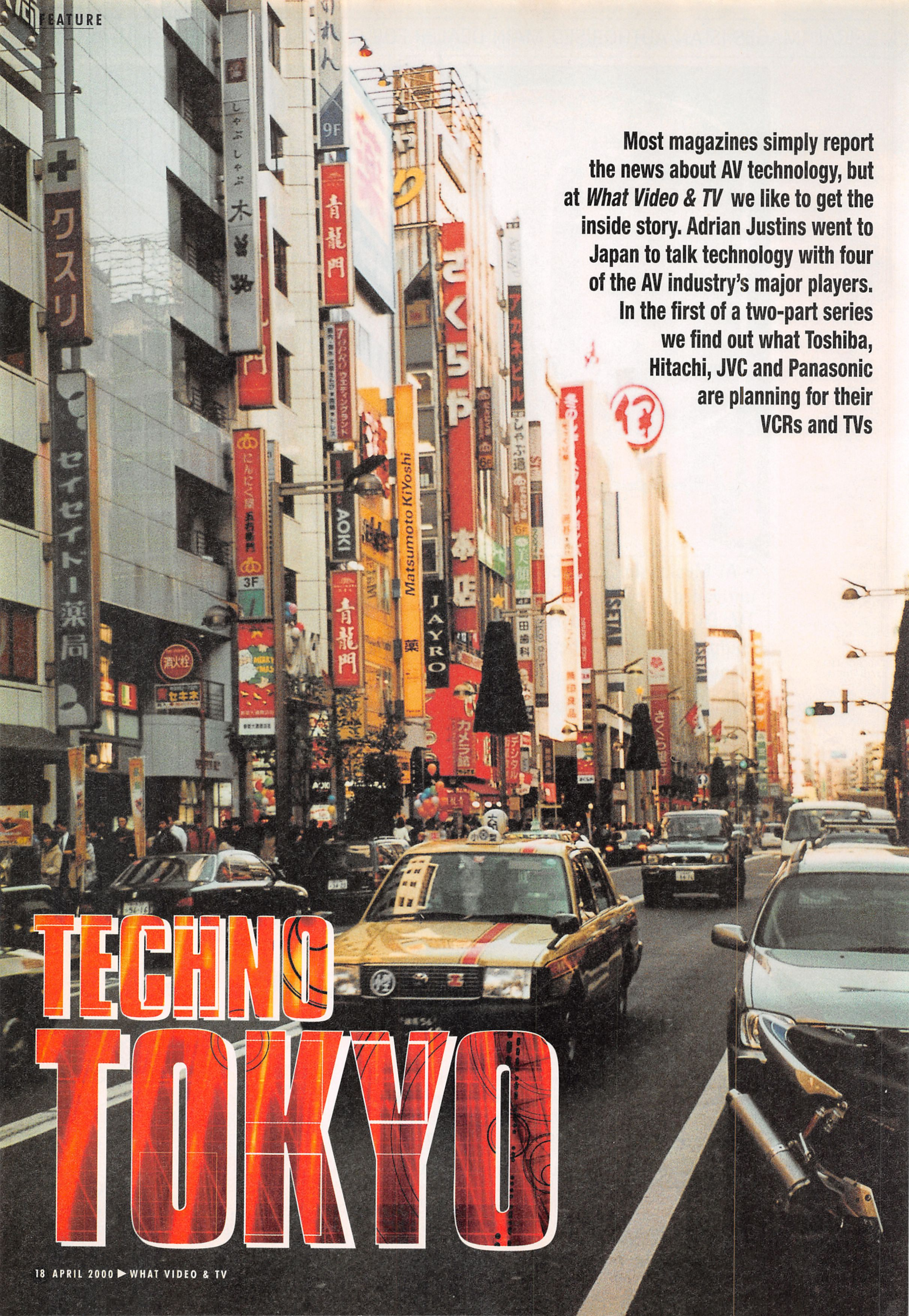



# TECHNO TOKYO

**Most magazines simply report the news about AV technology, but at *What Video & TV* we like to get the inside story. Adrian Justins went to Japan to talk technology with four of the AV industry's major players. In the first of a two-part series we find out what Toshiba, Hitachi, JVC and Panasonic are planning for their VCRs and TVs**

Tokyo is a remarkable city. The trains are frequent and never late, the people are exceptionally polite and friendly, and crime is almost unheard of. You can even leave your shopping by the ticket machine at the railway station without fear of theft while you nip off to buy something else. In Japan they are too busy getting things done to worry about interfering in someone else's business.

In the labs and workshops of Japanese AV companies engineers and designers are beavering away, doing what they know best and pushing back the boundaries of design and invention. We spoke to some of the people responsible for influencing the lives of millions of consumers all over the world, and found them only too happy to talk about their ideas and impending creations.

## THE VCR

Just when it seemed like the VCR's days were numbered by the astonishing success of DVD, the world's most prolific recording device looks set for something of a renaissance. As the recordable DVD camp splits in three, VHS has been given a shot in the arm by stealing a digital march on its rivals with the launch of D-VHS. Digital VHS will ensure that tape manufacturers are kept busy for some years to come.

### JVC

JVC is determined that its most famous invention will not disappear and has invested heavily in D-VHS. Last month (p20) *What Video & TV* carried a full review of the company's HM-DR10000 D-VHS VCR, which is now on sale in the UK. JVC demonstrated the deck to us in Tokyo, making a first-generation recording of a DVD at 14Mbit/sec, using 9:1 compression. The magnificence of this recording was something we haven't seen in 20 years of AV publishing. The copy's clarity and definition matched the original every step of the way.

We asked Yasuomi Namiki, JVC's general manager of video product planning, how successful he anticipated D-VHS would be, especially in the face of stiff opposition from DVD. 'We predict that by 2005 there will be 10 million D-VHS decks sold worldwide,' he replied. Namiki's faith in D-VHS is born from the legacy of VHS, which has seen 600 million units sold since its invention.

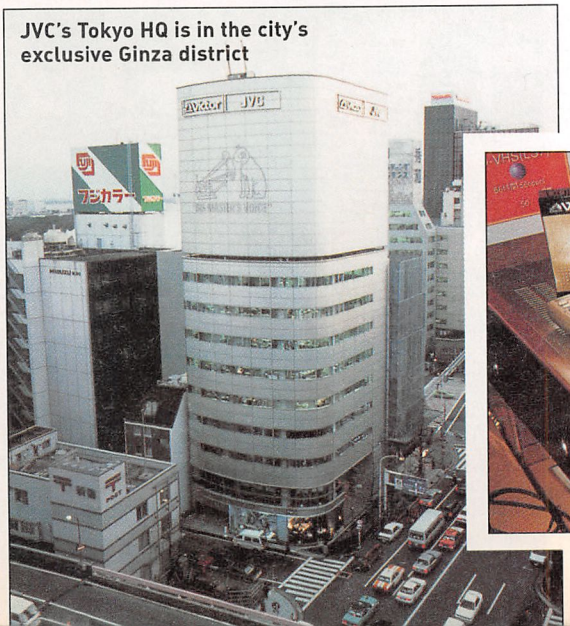
Consumers are comfortable with the concept of a cassette-based format and there are billions of VHS cassettes out there, which can of course be played back in a D-VHS deck. D-VHS's other main advantages over DVD are capacity and the cost of recording media. D-VHS can store 44Gb, 10 times more than DVD-RAM's current 4.7Gb. And DVD-RAM discs cost 15 times more than D-VHS tapes.

Despite the awesome excellence of the HM-DR1000's images and the unparalleled recording capacity, the deck lacks some features which are taken for granted on current high-end VHS decks. There's no slow-motion mode for MPEG-2 recordings, which requires a large memory buffer, no audio dub facility and PAL versions don't have an RGB Scart output.

Another notable deficiency of JVC's current deck is the absence of an IEEE1394 output. This, claims Namiki, is due to technical difficulties as well as concerns about copy protection. Nor is he concerned about the machine's other failings, which he claims may be addressed in future generations. Indeed, if current negotiations with Hollywood to commence commercial distribution of movies on D-VHS come off, the format seems even better placed to make a run of it.

As far as analogue video goes JVC is leading the current push towards S-VHS-ET, which has seen ordinary S-VHS disappear from the shops in Japan. S-VHS-ET uses expansion technology to allow high-band recordings to be made on low-band tapes. JVC has even replaced its S-VHS-C camcorders with ET versions. We can expect JVC's ET camcorder and VCR range to appear in the UK this summer. ➤

**"JVC is in negotiations with Hollywood to distribute movies on D-VHS"**




**JVC's Tokyo HQ is in the city's exclusive Ginza district**

**Left: just launched to great acclaim in the UK, JVC's D-VHS VCR**

# TECHNO TOKYO

Right: Technopark, Yokohama, where Hitachi developed its own D-VHS deck (below right), on sale now in Japan

## HITACHI

In marked contrast to JVC, Hitachi sees a limited future for tape-based media. The company is more excited by DVD's prospects as a recordable medium, although it's canny enough to recognise the importance of D-VHS in extending the life of the good old VCR.

'We were the first to release a D-VHS VCR, a bitstream model in the US,' deputy general manager Dr Toshinori Murata told *WV & TV*. So how come a deck with MPEG encoding was made, effectively meaning the D in D-VHS stood for Digital and not Data? Hitachi, like JVC, was able to take advantage of a rapid drop in the price of MPEG-2 encoders.

Hitachi is already working on improvements to the current D-VHS VCR, so while we in the UK are just getting excited by the release of JVC's D-VHS VCR, Murata estimates that within three years Hitachi will produce a D-VHS deck with high-definition recording capability. Such a machine would be capable of transferring data at 26Mbit/sec, and would guarantee the future of the VCR in a high-definition world.

Of course, while the US and Japan embrace a high-definition broadcasting system, we in Europe wait and see what AV scraps the Japanese will throw us. Can we expect to see a Hitachi D-VHS deck in Europe? Murata says that Europe will probably get the second-generation model. This will have addressed the problem of variable speed play, which is currently limited to 15x normal speed.

As far as VHS VCR production goes, within two or three years Hitachi could pull out of the market, depending mostly on the success of recordable DVD and D-VHS.

**"Panasonic is convinced that videotape's days are numbered"**

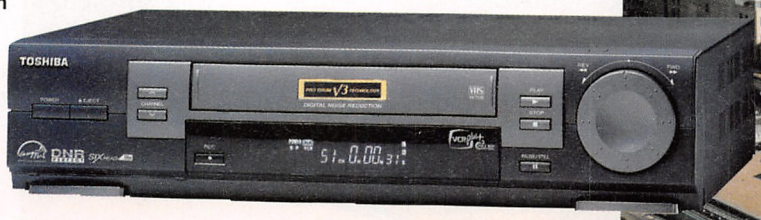
## TOSHIBA

Will Toshiba enter the D-VHS market? According to Naoyuki Kokado, chief specialist for advanced imaging and video products, the company will have a deck on sale next year which will be capable of recording high-definition broadcasts. Uniquely, this machine will have IEEE1394 connectivity, offering the highest quality recording and potential for interfacing with other components in a home network system.

Unlike JVC, Toshiba regards D-VHS as an interim measure until high-definition DVD is properly developed. We asked the company if and when it will cease VCR production. Kokado claims that the market is still strong, with 50 million VCRs sold worldwide last year. Of course, the price of VCRs has dropped to the point where profitability is so low that only high turnover can justify production costs.

Toshiba estimates that the VHS VCR has 10 years left in undeveloped countries and just five years in

Toshiba's executives enjoy this fine view from its Tokyo HQ




Toshiba's latest VHS VCR – the company says it will be 10 years before it ceases VHS production

the developed world, by which time recordable DVD will be affordable to the mass market. Never one to ignore a trend though, the company has just re-entered the S-VHS VCR market, selling S-VHS-ET models.

### Panasonic

Panasonic is convinced that videotape's days are numbered. For timeshifting, recordable DVD and hard disk-based personal video recorders will become the norm, while semi-conductor-based memory cards will, in time, completely replace tape in camcorders.

The company will keep its VCR business ticking over while there is life left in the format, and will even launch a D-VHS deck by the end of the year, which like Toshiba's model, will be capable of high-definition recording.

## TELEVISION

While the VCR's existence is threatened by the development of DVD and other disc-based media, the television remains central to the AV home entertainment setup. In Japan, TV technology is being driven by the need to provide the best platform for viewing digital TV.

Like the US, Japan is adopting a high-definition (HD) standard, which the UK has sadly opted to ignore. Still, televisions remain of paramount importance and the general trend seems to be to produce more flat-screen TVs, rear-projection home cinema sets and sets with better audio specifications.

Here is a summary of the AV giants' plans for television (all bar Panasonic, who was too busy talking about DVD – see part 2, next month).

### TOSHIBA

Naoyuki Kokado is baffled by the absence of HD in the UK, but believes we will be forced to adopt HD eventually. 'I cannot understand why the BBC says digital is high quality just because ghosting is eliminated. This to me is not high quality,' he says.

Kokado's view is that since the BBC distributes its programmes all over the world, it will find itself unwanted in major markets when HD has been fully established in the US and Japan (and other territories which subsequently go digital).

Kokado says that HD take-up has been slow in the US because of the high cost of set-top boxes and HD-capable TVs, but he expects prices to drop rapidly.

He expects HD TV to fuel a demand for larger screen models, namely LCD rear-projection TVs and plasma display panels (PDPs). What then is the future for the cathode ray tube? 'Screen size is limited,' he explains, 'any larger than 36in is heavy, expensive and difficult to make. But we are developing thinner sets.'

As far as Europe goes Toshiba's current strategy is to use flat screens on rear-projection LCD sets, but only for the German market, which is prepared to pay the extra premium required. This year the company aims to start making flatscreen TVs, possibly in the UK, at its Plymouth factory.

Despite leading from the front as far as the development of Dolby Digital-equipped TVs goes, Toshiba is less enthusiastic about making TVs with built-in DTS reproduction. 'We are considering it but the lack of software [DVD titles] and royalties due to DTS are our main hurdles,' says Kokado. Nor is Kokado too taken by some of the other current trends in TV production.

'Progressive scan is not so important on PAL or small-screen sets as it is on NTSC and large screen TVs, while 100Hz scanning can cause artefacts,' he confirms.

Still, Toshiba recognises the need to innovate. This year could see the launch of a TV with built-in hard-disk recorder, while the company's first IDTV will appear in the UK.

**"Toshiba is unenthusiastic about making TVs with built-in DTS reproduction"**

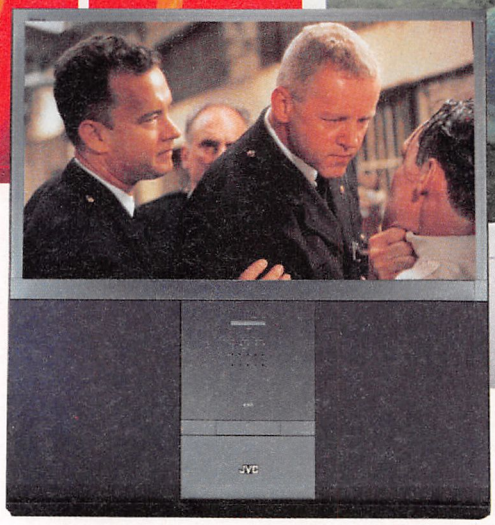
### JVC

JVC is justifiably proud of its remarkable D-ILA rear-projection set, which the company demonstrated to us in Tokyo and later paraded at the CES in Las Vegas.

The set's key innovation is its ➤

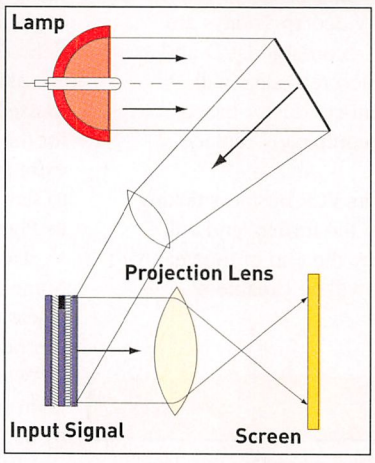
**Toshiba will launch a 61in 4:3 rear-projection set in the UK this year**

# TECHNO TOKYO



JVC's stunning D-ILA TV. Its single LCD panel means no convergence problems

Above: Fusao Kishi with the optical assembly from JVC's D-ILA TV




Left: how the assembly works

> **"Unlike most projection TVs, D-ILA sets offer edge-to-edge definition and a wide angle of view"**

◀ use of what JVC calls a direct drive image light amplifier (D-ILA) hologram device. The unit delivers a 1,280 x 1,028 pixel image, which is the highest resolution currently available from a consumer device. The technology has been borrowed from the professional market and improved with a newly developed colour hologram filter which separates light from a 200W ultra high-pressure (UHP) mercury lamp into RGB components using a thin film layer.

Where normal, transmissive LCD panels reflect no more than 60 per cent of light, the D-ILA panel reflects 93 per cent. The resulting increase in image brightness means that the lights don't have to be dimmed or the curtains closed in order to watch the set. This is a significant advantage over conventional rear-projection sets.

Using a single LCD panel provides another benefit – images are clearly defined from edge to edge as there is no possibility of registration error. A third key advantage is the wide angle of view, something which most projection TVs fail to provide. JVC has also incorporated a progressive scan feature to eliminate jagged edge noise and image trails.

The 43in set is no deeper than an average 21in CRT TV, while a 61in version, aimed at the US market, is comparable to a 36in TV. With back orders already stacking up in Japan, where the set has been on sale for several months at £4,000, JVC is confident that D-ILA will clean up when it goes on sale abroad including, hopefully, the UK by the summer.

## HITACHI

Like JVC, Hitachi was keen to show off its latest rear-projection TV. The 43in 43WP910, which is reviewed in this issue (see p58), is the first TV to sport built-in DTS and Dolby Digital decoding. The company is also proud of the set's Magic Focus function, which uses an eight-point sensor to set the convergence automatically. Other impressive kit on show included a 52in single-panel LCD projector (only for the Japanese market), which uses a liquid coolant. Apparently, this reduces the reflectivity of the screen and results in sharper contrast.

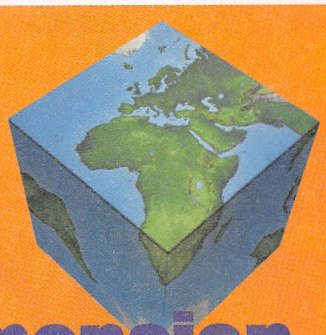
Plasma TVs demonstrated included the only 4:3 model on the market, and there was talk of a PDP with built-in TV tuner by the end of the year ❐

Hitachi's Kouichi Ogata – responsible for bringing DTS-capable TVs to Europe

## NEXT MONTH

In part two of this special report we look at DVD, including recordable DVD, DVD-audio and Hitachi's remarkable DVD-RAM camcorder.

# Welcome



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**BUSH 1496MTV** Mono 14in portable e-mail TV

# YOU'VE GOT M@IL

**Welcome to the future. This £200 Bush TV sports built-in e-mail, without requiring a computer. Ian Calcutt logs on for a look**

There can't be many people who haven't experienced the benefits of e-mail – fast, cheap communication to anywhere in the world. Unless you've invested in a home computer and modem, the options for using e-mail away from work have been strictly limited.

Digital TV's e-mail services had a shaky start and require all the necessary digital TV peripherals, including an additional wireless keyboard (unless you want to suffer the painstaking 'digit 1 = A, B or C' handset method).

Now there's an innovation from Bush, which has hooked up with internet provider World Callnet to create M@il TV. It's a free e-mail service that works via TV. Chat forums and basic text information services derived from the internet are also to form part of the service.

M@il TV will be available as a plug-in box (expected to be around £80) or built-in to a range of new TVs from Bush. The first of these is the £200 portable 1496MTV. So, is it worth forwarding the news to all your friends and family, or is it a case of return to sender?

**GUIDE PRICE: £200**

**E-mail interface is clear and legible**

## DESCRIPTION

There's little to give away this TV's hidden asset from the outside, as its design is simplicity itself. The silver-coloured casing fits snugly around a slightly bulbous 14in screen. Front controls are for on/off, channel and volume, but that's all. Surprisingly absent are portable TV stalwarts like front AV inputs and a headphone socket.

The back has just three connections – Scart, aerial and telephone. This is a mono TV but there are two speakers, situated on each side panel.

The infrared remote control is far more distinctive and unusual. Larger than normal – for a good reason – it has a row of traditional TV controls on top and a full QWERTY keyboard beneath a folding flap. Common to both arrangements of the remote is a thumbwheel for cursor navigation through menus.

Said thumbwheel is somewhat over-sensitive, especially during the 'enter' stage (it's easy to go up or down instead), but the concept is easy to get on with. Bush says that by the time the set goes in sale, it will come with a swivel stand.

## OPERATION

Auto install for the UHF channels takes about 1min 40sec, which is fast by anyone's reckoning. Channels can be re-ordered and renamed if necessary.

For use in continental Europe, the 1496MTV can use various PAL and Secam formats in VHF1, VHF3, UHF and cable TV bands.

Sadly, the Fastext buttons are arranged in a circular pattern rather than in a straight line as on most controls – and as represented onscreen. However, beneath the control lid are the same buttons in a row, which also work (though other text buttons, like Hold, are only on the top level).

External equipment can only be connected via the single Scart. The 1496MTV doesn't support S-video but will accept RGB (useful for DVD users). RGB is also the only way to view NTSC material on the set. Another bonus for anamorphic DVD viewers is the 16:9 mode, not that you'll notice the benefit at this size, but it's good to see the feature.

For the all-important e-mail, a lead is supplied that connects to a standard UK phone socket and the TV (which uses a regular modem-style socket). Before you start using e-mail, you'll need to create an account, which is free and simple to set up. However, phone calls are not free but charged at local rates. A maximum of five different users can be added per TV set.

Creating our first account took under five minutes. You press the M@il TV button and confirm, which dials up the service. All user settings, plus writing and reading of e-mail must be done on-line, so unless you want to run up a large phone bill, we recommend being brief!

The system asks for your first and last name and then suggests possible e-mail addresses, which saves a lot of hassle. If you want a specific user name you can also enter it, providing it hasn't been taken already (if you register quickly, you should get more choice).

> **"Plug-and-play e-mail without a computer"**

You then enter a four-digit PIN number to ensure the privacy of your account. Each stage is accompanied by a number of prompts at the foot of the screen, which are handily colour coded and correspond to the Fastext keys. ➤

**Remote control doubles up as midi-sized keyboard**

# BUSH 1496MTV Mono 14in portable e-mail TV

**Retro styling , contemporary technology**

Like any e-mail application, users can create and maintain a list of frequently used addresses. Again, this is unique to each user and is accessed by the PIN. All such stored data, including received e-mails, are saved on remote servers, not in the TV, which is why you have to remain on-line to use anything M@il TV-related.

Users of web-based e-mail like Hotmail or Yahoo Mail will be familiar with this concept. Additionally, experienced e-mail users (with a standard POP3 account from a service provider) can configure M@il TV to access an existing account, whether it's a work or home address.

Once your name is stored after initial setup, all future M@il TV operations will simply list all users registered in the household. You then select your own, enter the PIN and continue. Every integrated M@il TV will have the flip-up keyboard remote which provides all the functionality of a computer keyboard (the keyboard area measures about 16cm x 5cm).

The keys are slightly more spread out than those of a typical personal organiser, which should reduce chances of mistyping. The keys are very soft though, and it's easy for an efficient typist to run ahead of the TV's display, so don't go too fast or some letters will be skipped or duplicated.

There are advanced setup features for users with special circumstances, for example, switchboard users who must dial an additional number for an outside line, or those with Call Waiting (which can be switched off during on-line use so the e-mail process isn't interrupted).

## PERFORMANCE

Colour is naturalistic and overall, above average, but there's bleed between certain strong colours. This may not be much of an issue with such a small set – and it has no relevance for e-mail functions – but tread cautiously when buying larger versions. Shortcomings aside, the TV is more than adequate for broadcast uses at this scale, and DVD playback via RGB is quite watchable. Pure NTSC playback presents the set with no particular difficulty, the results easily being equal to PAL DVD playback.

Sound is clear and distinct but very much lacking in bass. The speakers have a tendency to be raspy on sibilant sounds, so ensure TV aerial reception is good to prevent it being worse than it should be.

## CONCLUSION

Overall, the 1496MTV is a very cute-looking TV. Its fully functional keyboard remote is a remarkable addition at such a low price point.

Other notable points include the multi-band tuning and support for RGB/NTSC.

The plug-and-play e-mail provides nearly all the attributes you'd expect without the need of a computer or the fuss of setting one up.

The allocation of up to five e-mail addresses per set is also worth remembering. The TV itself may only be of average quality, but it's great to see this kind of innovative feature being introduced at the budget end of the market.

There must be a large number of people out there for whom this system will be ideal. With more screen sizes to come which have M@il TV built-in, or the separate box for those who don't need a new set, there's nothing to stop you going on-line and e-mailing the world! ❐

## VERDICT

**Enjoy the benefits of e-mail from a budget TV and without even a hint of a PC in sight**

## SPECIFICATIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| PICTURE | 7/10 |
| SOUND | 7/10 |
| FEATURES | 8/10 |
| EASE OF USE | 8/10 |
| OVERALL | 8/10 |

**KEY FEATURES**
34cm (14in) screen size
E-mail with five free mailboxes
Infrared keypad remote control
Fastext
Auto tuning
NTSC-compatible (via Scart RGB)

**WHAT'S GOOD**
Built-in free e-mail; infrared keyboard remote

**WHAT'S BAD**
No S-video; picture marred by internal interference

**FEATURES**
34cm (14in) screen size; e-mail with five free mailboxes; infrared keypad remote control; Fastext, auto tuning; multi-band TV tuner, NTSC compatibility (via Scart RGB); 16:9 picture mode; mono sound; sleep timer (up to 120min); child lock

**SOCKETS**
*Rear:* one Scart (RGB-compatible); RF aerial in; telephone socket

**DIMENSIONS**
376(w) x 340(h) x 377(d)mm

**WEIGHT**
9kg

**CONTACT**
Bush ☎ 020 8787 3111

**TEST DATA**
Colour separation: average. Small amount of bleed between colours
Convergence: very good
Geometry: average. Screen is convex but image appears slightly concave
Frequency response: good. Clear to 5.8MHz (via RGB)

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September 1999

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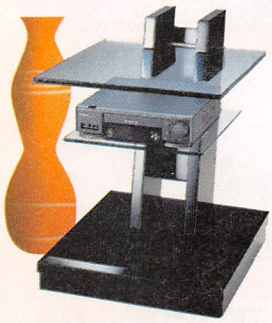

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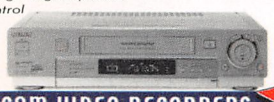

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- 50HZ with nicam stereo sound
- 3 scart sockets
- Fastext & auto set up mode
- Front AV inputs inc s-video
- Cabinet optional

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Spec as above plus:
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- Dual drive speakers
- 500 page fastext memory
- Auto 16:9 mode. Cabinet optional

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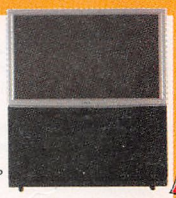

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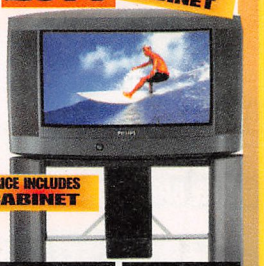
Model Shown 28PW6324



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- Dolby digital 5.1 audio
- 6 speakers inc. subwoofer
- Supplied with 2 wireless FM rear speakers

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- Fastext
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- PDC
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- Plug & Play

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## VR600 SALE £159 / VR860 SALE £229

- 4 Head nicam stereo vce
- Videoplus & PDC
- NTSC playback
- 2 rear scarts
- Digital studio picture control & Turbo drive

As VR600 plus:
- Crystal Clear & smart video
- 16:9 switching mode
- manual audio level control
- Shuttle on front
- Tape manager system I Easylink

## VR1000 SALE £259

- S-VHS with Digital Noise Reduction
- Smart picture
- Time Base Corrector
- Jog & Shuttle

## • VHS & SUHS VIDEO RECORDERS

0% APR Option up to 9 months

When purchased with our highly competitive extended guarantee

See Side Margin for details

**INTEREST FREE OPTION AVAILABLE ON ALL PRODUCTS**

**AUTHORISED MAIN DEALER FOR PHILIPS**

Hi SPEK electronics

## FINANCE DETAILS

### 6-9 Month Interest Free Option

Available when purchased with our highly competitive extended guarantees. **Minimum purchase is £200** and is available to mail order customers as well as callers to our stores, please see details and example below:

*Cash Price £649, £65 deposit, balance £584, commence monthly payment of £19.31 for 8 months then pay £429.52 on 9th payment 0% APR Interest Free. Or continue to pay £19.31 for a further 40 months, total payment £991.88 APR 27.9%*

### LOW COST FINANCE

Hi-Spek are able to offer a low cost finance deal to customers who require a longer payment period. Applies to all products in store and mail order, (minimum purchase price £200). pay over 12, 24 and 36 months with an APR of only 21.9% (this compares with an APR of over 30% in some so called 'Low Price' major high street multiples). Please see details and example below.

*Cash Price £5000, £500 deposit, balance £4500, 36 payments of £167.26. Total payment £6521.36 (interest paid £1521.36) 21.9% APR.*

### 36 Month Interest Free

Available on marked items, Hi-Spek offer up to 36 months interest free. **Minimum purchase is £200** & is available to mail order customers as well as callers to our stores, please see details & example below.

*Cash Price £500, £50 deposit, balance £450, commence monthly payment of £37.50 for 12 months, total payment £500 0% APR Interest Free.*

Choose from any of the following periods according to the amount you wish to spend, 6, 9, 12, 18, 24, 30, & 36 MTHS:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| £200-£500 | UP TO 12 MTHS | £501-£1000 | UP TO 18 MTHS |
| £1001-£1500 | UP TO 24 MTHS | £1501-£2000 | UP TO 30 MTHS |
| OVER £2000 | UP TO 36 MTHS | | |

### FINANCE in Store

Should be 21 or over, in full time employment (part-time over 16 hours) Identification in the form of a full drivers license or a recent utility bill, together with any Credit/Switch card is required. Up to £5000 credit can be arranged on the spot.

### FINANCE by mail order

From the comfort of your home call 0208 349 1166. To qualify, the same conditions as above apply. Please call with your bank details and we will send you a credit form to sign. Your goods will be dispatched as soon as we receive the form back signed. It's that simple! Your deposit can be paid by Credit Card, Switch or Delta Card. Cheques or Postal orders payable to Hi-Spek.

Hi Spek are licensed credit brokers. Credit facility subject to status. Written details on request.

**HI-SPEK ELECTRONICS FINCHLEY CENTRAL, LONDON**
344-346 Regents Park Road, London N3 2LJ.
Tel: 0208 349 1166
Fax: 0208 346 2268
Opening hours: Mon - Sat 9am-6pm, Sunday 11am-4pm

OPEN SUNDAY 11am-4pm

Situated 100 yards from Finchley Central Tube on the Northern Line. Free car parking opposite store.

**HI-SPEK ELECTRONICS BRENTWOOD, ESSEX**
111 High Street, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4RX.
Tel: 01277 226 303
Fax: 01277 222 377
Opening hours: Mon to Sat 9am - 6pm
Situated 5 mins from junction 28 on the M25, public car park at the rear.

**MAIL ORDER CALL ON 0208 349 1166**

# Hi SPEK electronics

## 15 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

Established for over 15 years. Hi-Spek are renowned for the quality, range and supply of the latest technology. We specialise in the latest Camcorders, DVD, Digital TV & Home Cinema, with thousands of satisfied customers.

## DEDICATED TO CUSTOMER SERVICE

We are committed to customer service excellence. Hi-Spek has a dedicated customer services department ready to tend to any product trouble-shooting problems. Staffed by professionals, a network of qualified engineers are ready to serve you throughout the UK mainland.

## SERVICE EXCELLENCE

Whether buying in-store or by mail order, we offer an excellent service should your product require attention during the guarantee period. A network of qualified engineers ready to serve you upon a single phone call.

## THE RIGHT PRODUCT AND THE RIGHT ADVICE

If you are unsure about what you want to purchase within this vast technological field, no problem! Our specialists are trained to help you in every aspect of your purchase, whether in our shops or by mail order.

# AUTHORISED MAIN DEALER FOR TOSHIBA & BRANDS FEATURED BELOW

**0% APR** Option up to 9 months. When purchased with our highly competitive extended guarantee. See page 2 for details

**INTEREST FREE OPTION AVAILABLE ON ALL PRODUCTS**

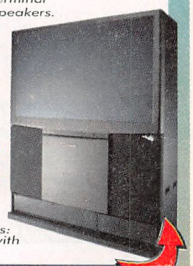
## WIDESCREEN PROJECTION TV'S

SAVE £850 ON ORIGINAL SELLING

**40PW8DB** SALE CALL (BEST BUY)

- 40" rear projection tv with "HiBrite" screen
- Dolby Digital/Dolby prologic & Nicam stereo sound
- Multi standard
- Megatext and Auto tune facility
- 2 Built-in speakers & sub woofer terminal
- Rear surround sound speakers.

CABINET AT 1/2 PRICE WHEN PURCHASED WITH TV £199 DOWN TO £99!



**56PW8DB** SALE CALL

**56PW8DB EX DISPLAY** (WHAT VIDEO & TV AWARDS 2000)

**£2399**

Features as 40PW8DB plus:
- 56 version and comes with built-in storage facility

## 4:3 PROJECTION TV'S

**55PJ6DB £1799** (BEST BUY) SAVE £1200 ON ORIGINAL

- 55" rear projection tv with "HiBrite" screen
- Auto tune and Multi standard tuner
- Megatext facility
- 2 Built-in speakers & sub woofer input
- Dolby prologic surround with two rear speakers supplied

INCLUDING CABINET WORTH £250 FREE WHILE STOCKS LAST

**43PJ93B** SALE CALL

"Best Super Screen TV" - WHAT VIDEO AND TV AWARDS

**50PJ98B** (BEST BUY) SALE CALL

**61PJ98B** SALE CALL

- Choice of 43", 50" and 61" "HiBrite" screens
- Similar to 55PJ6DB plus/except:
- Dolby digital surround sound (50"and 61" only)
- Rear speakers supplied with Dolby sets.

## DOLBY DIGITAL WIDESCREEN TV'S

**28WD98B** SALE CALL

**32WD98B** (BEST BUY) (HOME CINEMA BUY) SALE CALL

Features as 28W8DB plus:
- Choice of 28" and 32" models
- Dolby digital surround sound
- 100HZ tube technology
- Supplied with cabinet & rear speakers

**32ZD98B** (WHAT VIDEO & TV AWARDS 2000) SALE CALL

Similar to 32WD98B plus:
- 32" face flat picture tube

## NICAM & DOLBY PROLOGIC WIDESCREEN TV'S

**28W8DB** SALE CALL

**32W8DB** SALE CALL

- Choice of 28" and 32" widescreen tv's
- Dolby prologic and nicam stereo sound
- Auto tune and fastext
- 3 scart sockets and Optical unit for DVD
- Supplied with cabinet & rear speakers

**28W93B** SALE CALL

- 28" widescreen tv
- Nicam stereo sound
- Fastext
- Autotune
- 3 scart sockets
- Supplied with cabinet

## 4:3 DOLBY PROLOGIC AND DOLBY DIGITAL TV'S

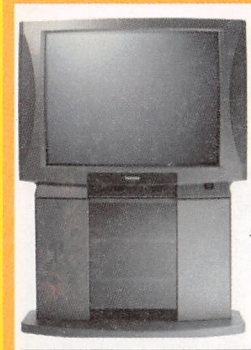
**2987DB** SALE CALL

**3387DB** SALE CALL

- Choice of 29" and 33" 4:3 TV tubes
- Dolby Digital/Dolby prologic and Nicam stereo sound
- Auto tune and fastext
- 3 scart sockets
- Supplied with cabinet and rear speakers

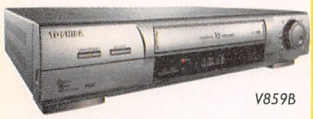
**3787DB** SALE CALL

Same as 3387DB plus:
- 37" version
- Dolby digital surround sound
- Megatext & 100 watts output
- Supplied with cabinet and rear speakers



## TOSHIBA NICAM VIDEOS

| | |
|---|---|
| V709B | SALE £145 |
| V729B | SALE £159 |
| V829B | SALE £189 |
| V859B | SALE £229 |



V859B

- 4 head Nicam video
- Video Plus and PDC
- NTSC Playback
- 2 Scart sockets
- Satellite Receiver control (V829/V859)
- Editing features including Audio dubbing (V829/V859)
- Multibrand remote including teletext (V859)

## MILLENNIUM TV/VCR PACKAGE OFFER

**Buy any Toshiba TV and get the following video recorders at the very special prices shown below when purchased together**

V709B

| | |
|---|---|
| V709B | SALE £129 |
| V729B | SALE £145 |
| V829B | SALE £179 |
| V859B | SALE £209 |

## TC 42PD1 & TC 37PD1 Panasonic

**£7300** Exc. V.A.T. £8577 inc.V.A.T. TC42PD1

**£5490** Exc. V.A.T. £6451 inc. V.A.T. TC37PD1

Panasonic's Plasma Display is a fundamental revolution in viewing technology, operating on principles similar to those of a fluorescent light. The Plasma Display can be connected to a PC and other AV peripherals, including the latest Digital set top boxes, DVD players, Video Recorders and Camcorders. Unique technology brings: • Outstanding Picture performance • Excellent Colour and Brightness • High Definition Resolution • Completely Flat Screen, Super Thin Construction • MultiMedia Application • Double Scan Technology • Optional Accessories: Matching Speakers & Wall Mounting Brackets Technical specification Panel • Screen size : 106 cm V (TC 42PD1), 93 cm V (TC 37PD1) • 16:9 wide aspect ratio • Pixel Pitch (mm) : 1.08 • Pixels (w x h) : 852 x 480 • Brightness (panel) (cd/m2): 550 • Contrast Ratio : 55:1 • Colour Systems : AV NTSC/PAL/SECAM/PAL60 • PC Signal RGB • Computer Input : VGA & Compressed S-VGA • Wide Digital Plus : Progressive Scan • Audio Output 8W + 8W (EIAJ) • Wall mount optional bracket.In/Out Terminals • Video In : BNC x 1 • Video Out : BNC x 1 (loop through out) • S-Video in 4 pin din x 1 • Video audio in : RCA (L,R) x 1 • PC In : D-Sub HD15 x 1 • PC Audio In : M3 • G/Y, B/Pb.R/Pr.HD.VD In : (component RGB) RCA x 5 broadcast specification only • Audio in: RCA (L, R) x 1 • External speaker terminals • Control : RS-232C Supplied Accessories • Pedestal Stand Dimensions • TC 42PD1 width 1034mm, depth 89mm, height 634mm, weight 36kgs • TC 37PD1 width 930mm, depth 89mm, height 573mm, weight 31kgs.

## PHILIPS

**42 FD 9932**

**£5200** Exc.V.A.T. £6110 inc.V.A.T.

Let technology & art meet head on in your living room. The ultra thin profile of the Flat TV says sleek, sophisticated. The crisp, Crystal Clear picture clarity says no compromise for technical excellence. The 160o viewing angle means everyone can watch in amazement. The 40 Watts RMS means enough sound around for all. Combined with DVD, your home cinema is complete. Technical specifications: • Visible Diagonal : 42", 106cmv • Display Type : AC-Plasma • Aspect ratio: 16:9 • Digital Combfilter • Progressive scanning • Crystal Clear/Digital Noise Reduction • Pal Plus with Colour Plus • Dual screen/Mosaic Screen I 6 wide screen modes: auto detection Sound • Sound system: 4 speaker HiFi stereo • Graphic equaliser • Output (total): 40 watts RMS Operation/Teletext: • Easy installation/ operation via menu • Multi-language selection: 12 languages • Automatic Channel Installation • 100 preselections • Programme name/Favourite programme • Page memory of 440 pages used for: Habit watch, preferred page, subcode page, page look-up table. MultiMedia: • VGA, SVGA, XGA and transmission system off air: /12 PAL B/G; SEC B/G/L, NTSC M: /19 PAL B/G/I; SEC B/G/L/L • AV connections : RGB, Y/C, CVBS, SVHS+Audio, A/V • VCR preselections : All inputs • Aerial input: 75 Ohm (Coax) • Channel Selections : VHF, UHF, S-channels, Hyperband Connections • Stereo headphone out (3.5mm jack) • Euro A/V1: RGB-in, CVBS-in/out • Euro A/V2: RGB-in, CVBS-in/out, Y/C in/out • Video front: CVBS-in (cinch) YC-in • Weight (excl. packaging) : Display 42.5kg : Receiver 6.4kg • Dimensions (w x h x d) Display : 122.2 x 68.1 x 14.6 cm: Receiver: 43.5 x 16.7 x 33.8 cm • Wall mounting bracket inc. • Floor stand optional I Receiver optional.

## SONY

**PFM-500A2W**

**£5995** Exc. V.A.T. £7044 inc.V.A.T.

The PFM-500A2W incorporates a newly developed brighter flat panel. Now you can view clearer, brighter images than ever before. The front filter glass of the panel has a non-glare finish that reduces diffused light reflection. Easy handling: The option slot gives the PFM series tremendous flexibility in combination with the optional adaptor. Since optional plug and play adaptors can be added, the range of PFM series applications will continue to grow. Option slot: Each PFM series monitor is equipped with four convenient handles on the rear side. With unique retractable feet, the monitor can be moved and installed with a minimum of effort and with no additional devices.Lightweight and compact design: The thin and lightweight flat panel gives PFM Series monitors a compact body. Thus superb images can be enjoyed with minimal space requirement. Clear and even pictures: Because of the linear alignment of the light-emitting pixels, accurate pictures are reproduced without distortion. Wide viewing angle - There is a wide-viewing angle of 160 degrees in all directions. The clear pixel-by-pixel images appeal to large audiences in many different applications. Bright precise and visual experience: The PFM Series offers a range of features that are of key importance to professional applications: • Five Language on screen display - English, French, German, Italian and Spanish • Picture control • Size control - picture size is adjustable, both horizontally and vertically • Selectable aspect ratio - the aspect ratio is selectable between widescreen 16:9 and standard 4:3 aspect ratios • Picture zoom/still function • Easy maintenance access • Self diagnosis function - Status Menu / Service Code Indicator / RS-232C port • Detachable power/supply block • The PFM Series can be controlled with RM921 remote commander (supplied) • Wide range of power supplies AC100-120V and AV200-240V (50/60 Hz) switchable • 7 W+7 W built-in amplifier • Audio monitor out. Additional features: • Mounting Bracket - monitors can be tilted 0 to 20 degrees downward from the wall in 7 locking steps • Analogue input capability: VIDEO (composite, Y/C, YUV, RGB) HDTV (Y/PB/PR) and PC (RGB, HD/VD (5 BNC) • Viewable picture area 42 inch/1056mm measured diagonally Input / Output: • RGB-1 BNC connectors HD/comp, VD H or composite sync Audio (L/R) phono • RGB2D-sub 15 pin connector • Line composite BNC connector Y/C mini din 4 pin connector • External audio speaker terminals • Remote RS232C mini din 8 pin • Control S In/Out stereo mini jack Dimensions W 1036mm x H 636mm x D 152mm

## Pioneer

**PDP-502MXE**

**£8995** Exc. V.A.T. £10569 inc. V.A.T.

Thin (9.8cm) and Light (40.3kgs) for Any Layout The plasma displays streamlined dimensions and design make it easy to position almost anywhere - on a wall, rack, floor or ceiling. Future and Multi-Media Compatibility Pioneer's high definition XGA wide panel with 1,280 x 768 pixel resolution can process all types of full-specification VGA, SVGA and XGA, as well as down converted SXGA and VXGA format signals. The PDP-502MXE can support a wide range of screen sizes and can reproduce PAL, NTSC, SECAM and HDTV formats. A wide range of input/output terminals expand possibilities for various Home Cinema set-ups or PC system configurations. The displays S-Video and component input terminals ensure high image quality for every set-up at all times. Technical Specifications • 16:9 aspect ratio, 50 inch (diagonal) screen • High resolution XGA picture:1280 horizontal x 768 vertical pixels • Superior brightness and contrast: • 160o viewing angle • Versatile connections: Analogue RGB In/Out, RS23C (D-Sub 9 pin), Combination In/Out, Control In/Out, Audio Input/Output • Personal Computer Input Resolution: VGA/SVGA/XGA/SXGA#1//VXGA#1 • Desktop feet included • Optional video box (PDA-5001) and 50 inch left/right speakers (PDP-S04-LR) available • Dimensions (W x H x D): 1,218 x 714 x 98mm • Weight 40.3kg

## "HANG ON THE WALL" PLASMA TV'S

sales@hispek.com

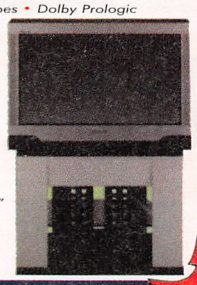
# MAIL ORDER CALL ON 0208 349 1166

## TX-28PK1 SALE CALL | TX-28PK2 SALE CALL | TX-32PK1 SALE CALL

• 28"& 32" New quintrix F widescreen tube with flat screen
Other features as TX29PK1 plus:
• Auto aspect ratio
• Zoom facility
• Cabinet supplied

**TX-32PK2 SALE CALL**

Features as TX28PK1 plus: • Choice of 28" or 32" Widescreen Quintrix tubes • Dolby Prologic • Cabinet supplied



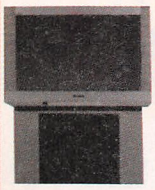
**TX-28PK10 £899**

**TX-32PF10** WHAT VIDEO & TV AWARDS 2000 **SALE CALL**

**TX-36PF10 SALE CALL**

Features as TX28PK1 plus: • Choice of 28, 32" or 36" widescreen quintrix F tubes • Straight horn sound system • 100HZ super digital scan • Wide digital plus • Dome sound system (TX28PK10 only) • Supplied with cabinet

## • 16:9 [Tau] WIDESCREEN TV'S

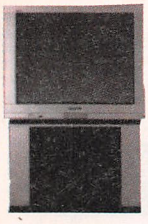


**TX-28DT2 £879**

**TX-32DT2 £1179**

• Choice of 28" & 32" models
• Features similar to TX28PK1 plus;
• Integrated digital terrestrial tuner
• DVB tuner/ teletext/subtitles
• MHEG S/DSM-CC
• EPG-electronic programme guide
• External modem supplied
• Supplied with cabinet

## • 16:9 [Tau] INTEGRATED DIGITAL TV'S



**TX-29AK1 SALE £559**

• 29" New quintrix F tube with flat screen • New AFB dome sound system
• Nicam digital stereo
• Digital Comb Filter
• Fastext
• Cabinet supplied

**TX-33AK10 SALE CALL**

Features as TX29AK1 plus:
• 33" New quintrix F tube with flat screen • Dolby prologic sound system (rear speakers optional)
• 3D active dolby 1100HZ digital scan • Still picture and super zoom • Cabinet supplied

## • 4:3 [tau] TECHNOLOGY TV'S

**TXW28R4C SALE £499**

**TXW32R4C SALE £729**

• Choice of 28" and 32" Tubes • Nicam digital stereo • Megatext facility • Hexacone dome sound system • QLink and owner ID
• 3 Scart sockets • Supplied with cabinet

**TX32DK1 SALE £829**

Similar to TX32R4C but silver finish

**TX32DK2 SALE £899**

Features as TX32DK1plus Dolby prologic supplied with rear speakers and cabinet

**TXW36D3DP SALE £1549**

**TXW28R4DPC £579**

Features as TX28R4C4 plus:
• 28 " & 32" Tubes • Nicam digital stereo • Dolby Prologic sound system • Super 3D bass sub woofer • 3 mode DSP • Supplied with rear speakers & cabinet.

**TXW34R4DPC £829**

Features as TXW 28R4DPC plus:
• 36" (86cm) picture tube • 100 HZ Super Digital Scan • DAF system ensure super sharp picture • Supplied with rear speakers & cabinet.

## • QUINTRIX WIDESCREEN TV'S

**TX-47PT1 SALE £2499**

• Choice of 42" & 37" plasma screens • Super thin and lightweight construction • Multimedia applications • Multi system compatible NTSC/PAL/SECAM • Pedestal stand supplied

## • T [tau] PROJECTION TV

**0% APR** Option up to 9 months When purchased with our highly competitive extended guarantee

See page 2 for details

**INTEREST FREE OPTION AVAILABLE ON ALL PRODUCTS**

## NV-HD640 SALE CALL | NV-HD645 SALE CALL | NV-HD675

• 4 head nicam digital stereo TV
• NTSC playback on pal tv
• Auto SP/LP change
• Security owner ID
• Videoplus & PDC
• 2 scart sockets

As NV-HD640 plus:
• Satellite control
• Audio dubbing

As NV-HD645 plus:
Tape library • Subtitle record and playback • Front AV inputs

WHAT VIDEO & TV AWARDS 2000

**NV-HD685 SALE CALL**

As NV HD675 plus:
• Edit features, one touch edit/jog & shuttle/audio dub & insert edit/5-pin & synchro edit Terminals • Digital set top box control

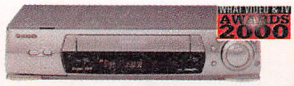
## • NICAM VIDEOS

**£339 NVHS900**

• SVHS Edit Deck • 4 Head Nicam Digital Stereo • Videoplus and PDC • Multi Brand Remote Control • NTSC Playback • Insert Edit • Flying Erase Head • Audio Dub

**NV-HS850 SALE CALL**

Features as NV-HD685 plus:
• Superb SVHS quality pictures
• Digital signal processing



WHAT VIDEO & TV AWARDS 2000

## • S-VHS VIDEO

**NVDS8 SALE CALL**

• Mini DV camcorder • 20x optical zoom • 400x digital zoom • Digital still picture terminal (RS232C) • Super Image Stabiliser • PCMS Audio dubbing • Colour viewfinder • DV terminal (i.link)

**NVEX1 £749**

• Worlds smallest and lightest DV camcorder
• 2.5" LCD monitor
• SX20/100 Digital zoom • Digital effects
• DV out terminal (IEEE1394) • Digital still picture terminal RS232C
• Super image stabiliser

**NVDS11 £609**

WHAT VIDEO & TV AWARDS 2000

As NVDS8 plus: • 2.5" Smart Turn colour monitor

**NVDX110 £1149**

• 12x optical zoom & 24/120 digital zoom • 3CCD Camera system
• Pro style manual functions
• 2.5" LCD monitor
• DV input/output

**NVDS33 SALE CALL**

• Mini DV Super image stabiliser
• 2.5" LCD colour monitor Super colour viewfinder SP/Precordings
• DV Out RS232C output and 10x optical and 20/100 digital zoom
• Progressive photoshot

**NVDS99 £929**

As NVDS33 plus/except:
• 12x optical and 120x digital zoom
• PCM audio dubbing
• 3.8" super colour LCD monitor

**VWDTA1E SALE CALL**

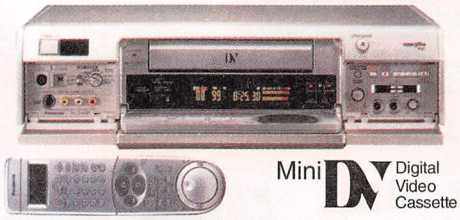
**VWDTA5E DIGITAL CAMERA SOFTWARE**

PRICE INCLUDES: VWDTA5E ▶ DIGITAL CAMERA SOFTWARE

## • MINI DV CAMCORDERS

**NV-DV10000 £1499**

BEST BUY WHAT VIDEO & TV



Mini DV Digital Video Cassette

• High quality DV pictures • Horizontal resolution over 500 lines • Signal to noise ratio over 54dB • DV editing • ilink terminal • High quality digital PCM (12/16bit) stereo sound • High quality PCM stereo sound editing • Wireless editing controller • High precision response DVC-PRO mechanism • Six-motor system for extra quick response and outstanding tape protection • Versatile editing terminals • 5-pin editing terminal • SVHS Edit Deck Digital still picture terminal • SVHS Edit Deck • Programme editing • Audio Mixing • One touch editing • Tuner and timer • LP mode recording • "Compatible Structure" and tray loading

**PANASONIC 2 HOUR FULL SIZE DIGITAL TAPES ONLY £10.00 (WHEN BOUGHT IN 5'S)**

## • DIGITAL VIDEO

**AUTHORISED MAIN DEALER FOR Panasonic**

# Hi SPEK electronics

## EXTENDED GUARANTEES

We have joined forces with Pinnacle Insurance Plc, who are specialists in this field, to bring you a highly competitive and fully comprehensive extended guarantee option. This guarantee offers absolute peace of mind against breakdown or accidental damage.

All items come with a one years manufacturers guarantee, which covers parts and labour. Investing in one of our extended guarantees will mean you will receive the following additional benefits immediately:

- Total protection against mechanical or electrical breakdown for 3 or 5 years (that's additional cover for 2 or 4 years).
- Total protection against accidental damage from day one.
- Absolutely no bills to pay.
- Nationwide collection and delivery service for faulty products (mainland only). From day one.
- New for old replacement if beyond economical repair. From day one.
- Guaranteed repair times. From day one.
- Up to £5000 cover value.

In a recent study we compared the cost of a guarantee with one of the UK's largest "cheap" superstores and the findings are published below; this study compares the cost of a 3 and 5 year guarantee on a television costing £650. (28" widescreen TV).

| | 3 Year | 5 Year |
|---|---|---|
| Well known superstore | £119 | £219 |
| Hi-Spek | £69 | £119 |

The cost of a 3 & 5 year guarantee on a DVD Costing:

| | 3 Year | 5 Year |
|---|---|---|
| DVD up to £350 | £65 | £129 |
| DVD over £350 | £79 | £149 |

The cost of a 3 and 5 year guarantee on a camcorder costing £650.

| | 3 Year | 5 Year |
|---|---|---|
| Well known superstore | £129-£145 | £209-£259 |
| Hi-Spek | £99 | £179 |

**HI-SPEK ARE UPTO 45% CHEAPER!**

## "WHAT YOU SAY ABOUT US"

*"I would like to thank you for the excellent service that I received... When I had occasion to return the unit it was replaced quickly & efficiently. At all times, I was treated courteously & there were no quibbles. I always thought that user commendations were fabricated, in your case they are genuine!"* **DE - Beds.**

*"I love Hi-Spek"* **SS - London**

*"A very pleasant and friendly staff team ... Interesting to sample large screen TV viewing ... very convenient from Northern Line."* **PN - Maidstone**

*"I would like to thank you for the professional manner in which you handled this deal. I look forward to dealing with Hi-Spek for next purchases."* **GM - South Glos.**

*"Thank you for your efforts and excellent customer service."* **CI, Lincolnshire**

**HI-SPEK ELECTRONICS**
**FINCHLEY CENTRAL, LONDON**
344-346 Regents Park Road, London N3 2LJ.
Tel: 0208 349 1166
Opening hours: Mon - Sat 9am-6pm.

**OPEN SUNDAY 11am-4pm**

**HI-SPEK ELECTRONICS**
**BRENTWOOD, ESSEX**
111 High Street, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4RX.
Tel: 01277 226 303
Opening hours: Mon - Sat 9am-6pm.

# MAIL ORDER CALL ON 0208 349 1166

# Hi SPEK electronics

## FINANCE DETAILS

### 6-9 Month Interest Free Option

Available when purchased with our highly competitive extended guarantees.
**Minimum purchase is £200** and is available to mail order customers as well as callers to our stores, please see details and example below:

*Cash Price £649, £65 deposit, balance £584, commence monthly payment of £19.31 for 8 months then pay £429.52 on 9th payment 0% APR Interest Free. Or continue to pay £19.31 for a further 40 months, total payment £991.88 APR 27.9%*

### FINANCE in Store

Should be 21 or over, in full time employment (part-time over 16 hours) Identification in the form of a full drivers license or a recent utility bill, together with any Credit/Switch card is required. Up to £5000 credit can be arranged on the spot.

### FINANCE by mail order

From the comfort of your home call 0208 349 1166. To qualify, the same conditions as above apply. Please call with your bank details and we will send you a credit form to sign. Your goods will be dispatched as soon as we receive the form back signed. It's that simple! Your deposit can be paid by Credit Card, Switch or Delta Card. Cheques or Postal orders payable to Hi-Spek.

Hi Spek are licensed credit brokers. Credit facility subject to status. Written details on request.

## TELEVISION BARGAINS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **FERGUSON** | | |
| M5115 | 20" TEXT | £100 |
| **LG** | | |
| CI21E20F | 21" TEXT | £100 |
| **PANASONIC** | | |
| TC14B3R (ED) | 14" R/C | £89 |
| TC14S3R | 14" R/C | £89 |
| TC14S3RW | 14" R/C | £89 |
| TX14C3TS | 14" TXT | £109 |
| TX28MD3 | 28" NICAM | £249 |
| **PHILIPS** | | |
| 14PT1363 (ED) | 14" R/C | £79 |
| 17PT1563 (ED) | 17" TEXT | £169 |
| 29PT8412 | 29" CLASS | £599 |
| 46P912A (ED) | 46" 4:3 Projection | £799 |
| **SAMSUNG** | | |
| TVP3360I | WHITETV/VID COMBI | £159 |
| CI3373T | 14" TEXT | £79 |
| **SONY** | | |
| KV25F2 (ED) | 25"DOLBY | £299 |
| KPS4112U (ED) | 41" 4:3 Projection | £799 |
| **THOMSON** | | |
| M70739GH | 28" TEXT | £249 |
| **TOSHIBA** | | |
| 1450RBT | 14" R/C | £89 |
| 1450RBW | 14" R/C | £89 |
| 1480RBT | 14" R/C | £89 |
| 1480TBZ (ED) | 14" R/C | £89 |
| 1722TB | 17" R/C | £159 |
| 1782TB | 17" R/C | £179 |
| 56PW8DB (ED) | 56" Widescreen Proj | £2399 |

All bargains listed here are brand new unless otherwise stated by adding "ED" after the model no. which means that may have been on display. All are boxed and include all instructions & standard manufacturers accessories. All goods come with a comprehensive one years warranty from Hi-Spek and manufacturer for parts and labour. BUY WITH COMPLETE CONFIDENCE

VISA DELTA AMERICAN EXPRESS SWITCH Access

**sales@hispek.com**

# AUTHORISED MAIN DEALER FOR JVC

0% APR Option up to 9 months — When purchased with our highly competitive extended guarantee. See side margin for details

**INTEREST FREE OPTION AVAILABLE ON ALL PRODUCTS**

## • HM-DR10000

**WORLD'S FIRST 21 hours of digital recording!**

- PURE DIGITAL RECORDING
- HIGH QUALITY PICTURE & SOUND
- 21-HOUR RECORDING PER CASSETTE
- The HM-DR10000 is also equipped with the D-VHS LS3 mode that lets you record an amazing 21 hours of video on a DF-420 cassette
- VIDEO NAVIGATION SYSTEM FOR PRINTING ACCESS u DIGITAL-TO-DIGITAL DUBBING FROM DV u ANALOGUE SUPER VHS/VHS COMPATIBILITY
- J-TERMINAL
  - Allows computer-controlled(Windows 98, 95 and 3.1; requires GV-CB3 JLIP)
- SYNCHRO EDIT WITH LANC CONTROL
  - Gold-Plated Front AV inputs & S-Video input
  - Audio level indicator I NTSC playback on PAL TV with HiFi Audio

- SPECIFICATION Input/output connectors: 21-pin connectors : IN/OUT x 1, IN/DECODER x 1RCA connectors: Video In x 1, Audio In x Audio Out x 1S-Video connectors: IN x 2. OUT x 1DV connectors: IN x 1 (4-pin, IEEE 1394 compliant, digital input)
- T-V LINK
  - Preset Download - Direct Rec
  - Next TView Link - TV Auto Power On
- PLUG & PLAY
  - Simply choose your country name on the on-Screen menu, and appropriate tuner setting, ShowView Guide Channel setting, and clock setting take place automatically
- MORE VALUABLE FEATURES
  - B.E.S.T. Picture System - 1-year/8-Event Programmable Timer
  - Push Jog Plus - Tape Position Indicator
  - Auto-Reset & Full Auto Functions

**CALL FOR BEST PRICE**

## • GRDVX4

**AWARD-WINNING MINI DV CAMCORDER**

**VIDEO CAMERA BEST BUY**
"... 9/10 for performance, 9/10 for value!!!"

**CAMCORDER USER GOLD AWARD**
"...the DVX4 offers one handed operation in a small stylish package!!"

High band mini DV
• High quality picture and sound with DV format and PCM audio • 1/4" 800,000 Pixel CCD • JLIP video producer & capture software Prestol photo album & image folio • DV Output (i.link, IEEE 1394 compliant) on camera, digital still output on docking st
• 2.5" 180,000-Pixel colour LCD monitor • Built-in Auto fl
red-eye reduction • EasyEdit with retrospective selection
effects and scene transitions • Pinpoint zoom during pl
PROVIDED ACCESSORIES • Image transfer and retou
ware • Rechargeable Lithium Iron Battery
• Multi-brand remote control • Docking Station
tor/battery charger • Battery pack • Grip/Hand
Connection cables •
Scart-Phono adaptor • Cleaning Cloth

**SALE £779 LIMITED OFFER FIRST COME FIRST SERVED**

**GRAX280 £235**
• 22x optical zoom • Wide angle 0.6 super Lo Lux • Programme AE with special effects

**GR-FX10 £319**
•VHS playback • 50x digital zoom • High quality picture with digital signal processing • Picture stabiliser • Super 0.4 Lo Lux • Programme AE with special effects • Long Play

**GRFXM15 £399**
Features as FX10 plus:
• 2.5" LCD monitor with speaker

**£459 GR-FXM65**

## • VHS-C CAMCORDERS

**GRDVL20 £499** **GRDVL40 £649**

• Mini DV format with PCM Digital Audio • DV output (ilink.ieee1394) & Digital still output • 16X optical & 160X digital zoom • 2.5" Hi Res colour LCD monitor • Digital effects
• Computerised capture with optional software package (HSV4KIT only £89)

GRDVL40 as GRDVL20 plus • 3.5" Hi-Res colour LCD monitor • Built-in auto light • Hi-Res colour view finder • Supplied with PC capture kit (HSV4KIT)

**GRDVL9500 £849**

High band digital mini DV • 560 lines vertical/500 lines horizontal Res. • JLIP video producer & capture software, Prestol photo album & image folio • 3.8" colour LCD monitor and viewfinder 200x super digital zoom • Anti red-eye flash • DV Out i-link IEEE 1394
• PCM digital stereo recording • High Res. digital image stabiliser • Pinpoint zoom during playback • EasyEdit
• Digital effects

**£1079** DV input and output

**GRDVX7 £999**
As X4 plus: • Digital still shooting with Multi Media card • Titles & frame templates for still & moving pictures

**HRJ670 £149**
• 4 head Nicam video with HiFi stereo sound • Video plus and PDC • NTSC playback with HiFi audio • Widescreen recording & playback • Front AV inputs & 2 scart sockets at rear • HRJ660 black • HRJ665 silver

**HR-S6600 £199**
• Hi-Res SVHS Nicam/A2 video deck • Other features as HRJ660 except no front AV inputs.

**HRDD865 £249**
As HRJ660 plus: • Dynamic drum system with time scan • Smart editing with/Audio dub • J-Terminal & lanc terminal • Manual rec level control & indicator

**HR-S7600 £235**
As HRS6600 plus: • Digital wide TBC (time bass convector) • Precision 3D colour circuit • Editing feature with front AV inputs.

**HR-S9600 £419**
As HRS8600 plus: • Multibrand TV remote • Gold plated front AV inputs • New design

**HR-S8600 £319**
As HRD865 plus: • Hi-Res SVHS picture technology • Easy Edit with random assemble editing • Linear editing with FEH

**HR-DVS1**

**SALE £949**

• MiniDV format with PCM Digital Audio • Super VHS & Hi-Fi VHS stereo • "EasyEdit" with random assemble editing inc. digital special effects • DV Insert Editing and Stereo audio dubbing • Multi brand TV remote.

## • NICAM & SVHS VIDEOS

## • MINI DV CAMCORDERS

# AUTHORISED MAIN DEALER FOR Canon

**DM-MV20 SALE CALL**
Mini DV
• Ultra compact vertical design • 12x optical & 48x digital zoom • Optical image stabiliser • Flip out 2.5" colour LCD screen • PCM digital stereo recording • IEEE 1394 compatible • Progressive scan CCD for digital stills

**DM-MV200 SALE CALL**
• Entry level super compact Mini DV • 16x optical/320 x digital zoom • 2 recording modes: Movie/Photo • Optical image stabiliser • 2.5" colour hi-res LCD screen

**DM-XM1 SALE CALL**
• World's first camcorder fitted with a Flourite lens • 20x optical zoom • DV terminal

**DM-XL1 SALE CALL**

• Semi Professional Mini DV camcorder
• 3CCDs
• Interchangeable lenses
• c/w 16x zoom lens
• Super range optical image stabiliser
• Hi-Res colour viewfinder
• DV In/Out terminal
• Full manual overrides

**DM-MV20i SALE CALL**

As DM-MV20 plus:
• DV in / out

**UCV200 SALE CALL**
• 8mm camcorder
• 2.5" Flip-out colour LCD screen
• 22x optical/440x digital zoom
• 6 program AE modes
• Flexi-Zone AF/AE
• Built-In editing functions

**UCV300 SALE CALL**
Features as UCV200 plus:
• image stabiliser

**UCV20Hi SALE CALL**
• Hi 8 camcorder • 2.5" flip-out TFT colour LCD screen • 22x optical zoom/44x digital • 6 program AE modes • FlexiZone AF/AE Built-in editing function • Optical image stabiliser • Lithium Ion battery • HiFi stereo sound

**UCV30Hi SALE CALL**
As UCV20Hi plus:
• 3" flip-out TFT colour LCD screen

**UC8000 SALE CALL**
• 8mm camcorder • 22x optical zoom 440x digital zoom • Built in video light • Flexizone • 6 AE programmes & backlight compensation • Preset & customer character titling • 12 digital picture effects.

**UC9500 SALE CALL**
As UCV8000 plus: • Colour viewfinder • Electronic image stabiliser

## • 8MM, Hi8 AND MINI DV CAMCORDERS

**MAIL ORDER CALL ON 0208 349 1166**

## CCD-TR425 £269

InfoLITHIUM video 8

- Video 8 XR • 72x Digital zoom • Nightshot • Multi language titler • Remote control • HiFi mono sound • Fader

## CCD-TR515 £319

As CCD-TR425 plus:
- Video Hi8 • Built-in light

## CCD-TR713 £359

As CCD-TR515 plus:
- Steady shot • LaserLink

## CCD-TR913 £389

video Hi8 XR InfoLITHIUM LASER LINK

As CCD-TR713 plus: • Video Hi8 XR • Nightshot with slow shutter • 80x Digital zoom • HiFi stereo

## CCD-TRV27 £359

- Video 8 XR • Fold out 2.5" Colour LCD screen & speaker • 72x Digital zoom • Nightshot • Remote control • Fader • HiFi mono sound

## CCD-TRV36 £399

video Hi8

As CCD-TRV27 plus:
- Video Hi8 • Built-in light

## CCD-TRV46 £449

As CCD-TRV36 plus:
- Steady shot • LaserLink

## CCD-TRV66 £519

As CCD-TRV46 plus: • Hi8 XR • Nightshot with slow shutter
- Digital effects • 80x digital zoom

## • 8MM AND Hi8 CAMCORDERS

## DCR TRV890 £1049

- 48 x Digital zoom • Fold out 3.5" Precision LCD/Speaker • Info-lithium battery transmits battery remaining time in minutes • Floppy Disk Drive attachment • Analogue output • DV input/output with i-link - IEEE • 3 CCD chip for sharper colour reproduction • Super Steady Shot (Optical) • Photo mode recording up to 510 stills • 4 lux minimum illumination • colour viewfinder (180K) • DNR • Programme 5 AE modes I Picture effects 6 modes • Digital Picture effect 5 modes • LP recording mode • 12/16 bit digital audio recording/ (12bit) Audio Dub • LaserLink for hassle free playback • Intelligent Accessory Shoe • JPEG format • VGA (640)480)

BEST BUY

LIMITED OFFER ORDER NOW!

## • SPECIAL OFFER

## DCR-TR7000 £479

- Digital 8 Recording • PCM stereo sound • Super steady shot • 20x optical/80x digital zoom • Super night shot • LaserLink • i-link (DV OUT)

## DCR-TRV110 £569

As TRV7000 plus:
- Fold out 2.5" colour LCD screen & speaker instead of colour viewfinder

## DCR-TRV310 £679

As TRV110 plus:
- 3.5" colour LCD screen & speaker

## DCR-TRV510 £799

As TRV310 plus: • DSC function built in 2Mb flash memory • PC application accessory supplied (RS232C connecting cable)
- Fold out 4" colour • LCD screen & speaker • Colour viewfinder

## • DIGITAL 8 CAMCORDERS

## DCR-TRV8 £779

- Mini DV • Fold out 3.5" LCD monitor & speaker • Carl Zeiss lens • Super steady shot • 40x digital zoom • LaserLink • Colour viewfinder li.link (DV Out)

## DCR-PC2

- Mini DV • Carl Zeiss lens • 40x digital zoom • 2.5" LCD monitor & speaker • Super steady shot • Photo mode for 510 still shots • DV output with (i.link IEEE1394) • Nightshot 0 Lux • slow shutter

## DCR-PC3 £1029

Features as DCR-PC2 plus:
- Memory Stick fun (serial adaptor, 4Mb memory stick & picture gear software supplied)

## DCR-TRV10 £925

As TRV8 plus: • Memory stick slot built in • Memory stick and PC application accessories supplied MS (4Mb RS232C serial port adaptor and picture gear

## DCR-TRV900 £1449

- 3 CCD DV camcorder with DV input • 48 X Dig zoom & 3.5" LCD monitor

## DCR-TRV890 £1099

as TRV-900 but not enabled to receive DV signal in and analogue in.

## DCR-PC100 SALE CALL

As DCR-PC3 plus:
- 1070K mega pixels CCD for really high quality stills and video images • ilink DV in / out • S video in / out • analogue video in / out.

## • MINI DV CAMCORDERS

## DHR1000 £1799

- Near to Broadcast Picture Quality Digital Video Edit Deck • Mini DV Cassette & Full Size DV Cassette Compatible • DV In/Out • Audio Dub & Insert • Time Code for accurate editing • Extended Data Code Information • DV Output with IEEE 1394 I-Link for PC interface

## GVD300 £779 GVD900 £1099

- DV Format Video Walkman • 5.5" LCD Monitor • DVIn/Out • Analogue In/Out • 16 Bit/12 Bit PCM Stereo • Laser Link • Audio Dub12 Bit Mode • GVD300 Similar to GVD900 but without • LCD Monitor • Without Audio Dub

Model Featured GVD900

## GVA500 Hi8 Video Walkman Deck £579

- Video 8 & Hi8 Recorder/Player. • Folding 4" LCD screen • NTSC playback • AFM HiFi socket ILANC socket for editing

## • DIGITAL EDITING VCR

## DSC-F505 £599

- Compact & high quality • 2" million pixels CCD • 5 x optical, 10 x digital zoom • Carl Zeiss lens 'Vario Sonnar • Memory stick • Rotating lens system • 640 x 480 VGA • MPEG movie, vopice memo & email • USB terminal & serial • 2" 122K TFT LCD • Video out terminal • apperture & shutter speed priority • Manual focus • Picture scan software • Infolithium • Intelligent flash light

## • DIGITAL STILL CAMERA

MEMORY STICK MEMORY STICK MEMORY STICK

The future of Memory Stick™ is looking good with AV / IT possibilities that stretch the imagination. The Memory Stick™ reality provides you with an: • Ultra-compact medium that can theoretically allow you to carry a whole encyclopedia's worth of material and a generation of family photographs in your shirt pocket! • You could even send pictures of your children to their grandparents via your telephone. The new Sony Memory Stick™ is the silicon media that will link all the digital products you own - playing music, showing videos and recording data. Memory stick™ is the universal media because it has been designed and manufactured by sony for total compatibility with both current and future AV and IT products. • Ready for business, industrial, professional and of course personal use, Memory Stick™ will be supported by the entire universe of sony product technology. Memory stick is a practical, affordable reality with a galactic future of user-friendly options.

### MSA-4A - £25
- 4 MB Memory Stick • Compact & lightweight (4g, 21.5 x 50 x 2.8mm • Reliable 10 pin connector • Lock function • Flash Ram technology

### MSA-8A - £29
- 8 MB Memory Stick™ same as MSA-4A

### MSA-16A - £49
- 16MB Memory Stick™ same as MSA-4A

### MSA-32A - £79
- 32Mb memory stick • Compact lightweight • Reliable 10-pin connector • Lock function • Flash RAM technology • VA10 World Connectivity

### MSA-CFDIA - £69
- Floppy disc adaptor • Simple operation • 240Kbps (read) • Driver software supplied • Windows 95/98 compatible

### MSA-CFDIB - £75
- Floppy disc adaptor • Simple operation • 240Kbps (read) • Driver software supplied • Windows 95/98/NT and Mac OS read compatible

### MSA-CPC2 - £59
PC card adaptor • High speed transfer (6.4 Mbps) • Driver built-in • Compatible with Windows 95/98/CE, Mac OS (system 7.5+)

### MSA-CPR1 - £69
Parallel port adaptor • High speed transfer (4.64 Mbps) • Requires PC-card adaptor (MSAC-PC1/2) for memory stick connection • Compatible with Windows 95/98/NT • Power source taken from keyboard (adaptor supplied)

### MSA-64A - £129
- 64Mb memory stick • Compact and lightweight (4g, 21.5 x 50 x 2.8mm) • Reliable 10-pin connector • Lock function • Flash RAM technology • VA10 World Connectivity

## • MEMORY STICK

0% APR Option up to 9 months

When purchased with our highly competitive extended guarantee

See page 5 for details

INTEREST FREE OPTION AVAILABLE ON ALL PRODUCTS

AUTHORISED MAIN DEALER FOR SONY

Hi SPEK electronics

## SPECIAL OFFER

## DCR-VX1000E £1799

DIGITAL HANDYCAM
- DV digital video format • PCM digital stereo • 3 CCDs for sharper colour reproduction • 10 x optical and 20 x digital variable speed zoom • Photo mode for recording up to 510 still shots • Manual focus and exposure controls • Time code and extended data code • Precision colour viewfinder • Lithium-ion battery Powered • DV output with IEEE 1394 - link - for easy download to other digital products

## • SONY

## VIDEO BARGAINS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **FERGUSON** | | |
| FV98HUX (ED) | NICAM | £149 |
| **HITACHI** | | |
| VTFX770 | NICAM | £169 |
| **JVC** | | |
| HRJ235 (ED) | LP | £99 |
| HRJ755 | NICAM | £145 |
| HRDD 845 (ED) | NICAM | £179 |
| HRS9400 (ED) | SVHS | £249 |
| **LG** | | |
| C211 | LP | £69 |
| **MITSUBISHI** | | |
| HS561(ED) | NICAM | £129 |
| **PANASONIC** | | |
| AG4700 (ED) | SVHS PRO | £495 |
| NVHD600 (ED) | NICAM | £149 |
| NVSD10AM (ED) | MULTI SYSTEM | £249 |
| NVSD230 | LP | £109 |
| NVSD410 | 4H/LP | £129 |
| NVSD440 | 4H/LP | £149 |
| **PHILIPS** | | |
| DV105 | LP | £89 |
| VR165 | LP | £99 |
| VR200 | LP | £199 |
| VR285 | LP | £99 |
| VR668 (ED) | NICAM | £149 |
| VR676 | NICAM | £149 |
| VR685 (ED) | NICAM | £149 |
| VR800 | NICAM | £179 |
| **SANYO** | | |
| VHR797 | NICAM | £129 |
| **SONY** | | |
| SLVE210 (ED) | LP | £129 |
| SLVE295 | LP | £119 |
| SLVE410 | 4H/LP | £149 |
| SLVE530 | 4H/LP | £149 |
| SLVE700 | NICAM | £179 |
| SLVE820 | NICAM | £179 |
| SLVE850 | NICAM | £199 |
| SLVSE20 | LP | £135 |
| SLVSE30 | LP | £159 |
| **TOSHIBA** | | |
| V226 (ED) | LP | £95 |
| V228 | LP | £95 |
| V255 (ED) | LP | £99 |
| V426 | 4H/LP | £115 |
| V728 | NICAM | £139 |
| V857 (ED) | NICAM | £149 |

## EVC400 £315
## EVC2000 £445

- Hi8 Video Recorder • AFM Hifi Stereo • Flying Erase head • Remote control • Scart/Euro connector EVC2000 same as EVC400 Plus Hi8 Editing facilities • RCTC (Time Code) Recognition • Jog Shuttle • AV Insert • Lanc & S-Video Input

## SLVT2000 £529

- 4 Head Nicam Hifi Stereo VHS VCR • Combination Long Play VHS/Hi8 Double Deck • Hi 8 Flying Erase Head • Front AV Input • Videoplus & PDC

## • EDITING & Hi 8 VCR'S

MAIL ORDER CALL ON 0208 349 1166

# Hi SPEK electronics

## AVR-3300 £799

• Award-winning prologic receiver
CASH PRICE £799
DEPOSIT £79,
24 PAYMENTS OF £30
TOTAL £1999 0% APR

## AVR-2800 £599

• Brand new AC3/dts receiver
CASH PRICE £599
DEPOSIT £59,
24 PAYMENTS OF £22.50
TOTAL £599 0% APR

## AVR-1800 £449

• Brand new prologic receiver
CASH PRICE £449
DEPOSIT £53,
18 PAYMENTS OF £22
TOTAL £449 0% APR

• DENON

## SPECIAL OFFER

**AVC-A1D** SALE CALL

**Top end AC3/ DTS receiver**

• Dolby Digital, dts and THX Ultra specified • New DDSC-Digital Circuit • Discrete Amplifiers with Uniform Power and Response to all Channels • Built-in DTS Decoder • Two sets of surround speaker outputs for music and movie Surround • 6-channel + 8-channel Input Terminals for future system upgrade • Icon-Based on-screen display • Multi-function remote controller • Huge array of audio & video inputs, both analogue and digital.

• DENON

## DVD BARGAINS

| | |
|---|---|
| **REGION 2 MODELS** | |
| PANASONIC DVDA100 (ED) | £149 |
| THOMSON DTH2000 | £199 |
| PIONEER DV505 (ED) | £149 |
| DENON DVD3000 (ED) | £299 |
| **MULTI REGION MODELS** (covering regions 1-6) | |
| DVL909 (ED) | £499 |
| SD3107M (ED) | £249 |
| PANASONIC DVDA150 (ED) | £199 |
| PANASONIC DVDA350 (ED) | £249 |
| YAMAHA DVDS700 (ED) | £229 |
| **REGION 1 MODELS** (including mains transformers) | |
| PANASONIC DVDA310 | £199 |
| PIONEER DV414 | £179 |
| PIONEER DV606 | £199 |
| PIONEER DVL909 | £499 |
| SONY DVPS7000 | £399 |
| **PORTABLE DVD** | |
| PANASONIC DVDL10 REG 2 | £599 |

All bargains listed here are brand new unless otherwise stated by adding "ED" after the model no. which means that may have been on display. All are boxed and include all instructions & standard manufacturers accessories. All goods come with a comprehensive one years warranty from Hi-Spek and manufacturer for parts and labour. BUY WITH COMPLETE CONFIDENCE

sales@hispek.com

# DVD VIDEO

0% 0%APR Option up to 9 months — When purchased with our highly competitive extended guarantee — See page 5 for details

**INTEREST FREE OPTION AVAILABLE ON ALL PRODUCTS**

## • HOT DVD DEALS FROM THE HOME OF DVD

### SONY

**DVPS7700**

Up to 9 months interest free option*
REGION 2 £629 | MULTI REGION £699

**DVPS725** WHAT VIDEO & TV AWARDS 2000

Up to 9 months interest free option*
REGION 2 £439 | MULTI REGION £549

**DVPS525** WHAT VIDEO & TV AWARDS 2000

Up to 9 months interest free option*
REGION 2 £329 | MULTI REGION £429

**DVPS325**

Up to 9 months interest free option*
REGION 2 £289 | MULTI REGION £349

**DVP-CX850D**

Up to 9 months interest free option*
REGION 2 £CALL | MULTI REGION £CALL

### PHILIPS

**DVD710**

Up to 9 months interest free option*
REGION 2 £229 | MULTI REGION £CALL

**DVD950/955**

•Latest DVD/VCD/CD Player • DVD955 as above but silver
REGION 2 £339 | MULTI REGION £CALL

### marantz

**DVD890**

Up to 9 months interest free option*
REGION 2 £349 | MULTI REGION £CALL

### PIONEER

**DV626**

Up to 9 months interest free option*
REGION 2 £359 | MULTI REGION £429

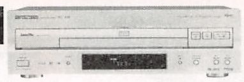
**DV515**

Up to 9 months interest free option*
REGION 2 £259 | MULTI REGION £279

**DV525**

Up to 9 months interest free option*
REGION 2 £CALL | MULTI REGION £299

**DVL919**



Up to 9 months interest free option*
REGION 2 £649 | MULTI REGION £799

**DV717**

Up to 9 months interest free option*
REGION 2 £439 | MULTI REGION £479

### Panasonic

**DVD-A160**

Up to 9 months interest free option*
REGION 2 £279 | MULTI REGION £299

**DVDA360**

Up to 9 months interest free option*
REGION 2 £429 | MULTI REGION £449

**DVD L50 PORTABLE DVD PLAYER**

• Palm cinema-World's smallest and lightest portable DVD player with 5" widescreen lcd monitor • Digital out for DTS / dolby digital and MPEG 2 • Region code 2 with NTSC playback on pal tv • AC/DC operation • Supplied with lithium battery, wireless remote and built in charger • weight 680g w/o battery
REGION 2 £699 | MULTI REGION £799

### TOSHIBA

**SD3109**

Up to 9 months interest free option*
REGION 2 £299 | MULTI REGION £379

**SD9000** WHAT VIDEO & TV AWARDS 2000

Up to 9 months interest free option*
REGION 2 £499 | MULTI REGION £599

**SD2109** WHAT VIDEO & TV AWARDS 2000

Up to 9 months interest free option*
REGION 2 £249 | MULTI REGION £289

### DENON

**DVD5000** 0% APR up to 36 months

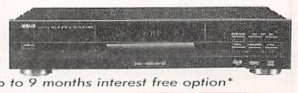
• Top of the range DVD Player (Region 2)
Cash Price: £1599 | MULTI REGION £1699
Deposit: £199
36 Monthly Payments: £38.88 Total Payment £1599 0% APR

**DVD2500**

Up to 9 months interest free option*
REGION 2 £359 | MULTI REGION £429

### YAMAHA

**DVDS795**



Up to 9 months interest free option*
REGION 2 £349 | MULTI REGION £449

### SAMSUNG

**DVD709**

REGION 2 £199 | MULTI REGION £279

## Q BASS 100E

0% APR option up to 18 months

Black Grittex
CASH PRICE £495
DEPOSIT £81
18 PAYMENTS OF £23
TOTAL £495 0%APR

## STRATA III

0% APR option up to 24 months

Black Grittex
CASH PRICE £600
DEPOSIT £72, 24 PAYMENTS OF £22
TOTAL £600 0%APR
Wood Finish £100 extra

## STADIUM II

0% APR option up to 24 months

Black Ash Veneer
CASH PRICE £995
DEPOSIT £155, 24 PAYMENTS OF £35
TOTAL £995 0%APR
Wood Finish £100 extra

## STENTOR II

0% APR up to 30 months

Black Ash Veneer
CASH PRICE £1800
DEPOSIT £300, 30 PAYMENTS OF £50
TOTAL £1800 0%APR
Wood Finish £100 extra

## Q BASS 200E

0% APR option up to 24 months

Black Grittex
CASH PRICE £600
DEPOSIT £72
24 PAYMENTS OF £35
TOTAL £600 0%APR

REL Q BASS

## STORM

0% APR option up to 24 months

Black Grittex
CASH PRICE £695
DEPOSIT £95, 24 PAYMENTS OF £25
TOTAL £695 0%APR

## STORM III

0% APR option up to 24 months

Black Grittex
CASH PRICE £800
DEPOSIT £128, 24 PAYMENTS OF £28
TOTAL £800 0%APR
Wood Finish £100 extra

Rel Stadium

## STUDIO II

0% APR up to 36 months

Any Wood Veneer
CASH PRICE £4000
DEPOSIT £400, 36 PAYMENTS OF £100
TOTAL £4000 0%APR

TSUNAMI TS300
**TS300**
CASH PRICE £350
DEPOSIT £35 18 PAYMENTS OF £17.50
TOTAL £350 0%APR

• REL/TSUNAMI AWARD WINNING SUBWOOFERS

# MAIL ORDER CALL ON 0208 349 1166

0% 0%APR Option up to 9 months When purchased with our highly competitive extended guarantee See page 5 for details

**INTEREST FREE OPTION AVAILABLE ON ALL PRODUCTS**

# YAMAHA

**DSPA1** ac3/dts amp **£949**

SAVE £650

WHAT HI*FI WINNER ★★★★★ June'98

**DSPA2** ac3/dts amp **£629**

SAVE £370

WHAT HI*FI WINNER ★★★★★

**DSPA595a** Digital Home Cinema Amp **SALE CALL**

DOLBY DIGITAL/DTS

WHAT HI*FI WINNER ★★★★★

- 70W x 5 (main, centre and rear effects) inc. DTS & Dolby Digital Processing, S-video terminal inputs, 14 surround programmes

**RXV-795a RDS £399**

SAVE £100

- New AC3/DTS Receiver
- Dolby digital, DTS Decoder and DSP Processing circuit

**AX392** stereo integrated amp **SALE CALL**

- 60 W/CH RMS power
- Remote

WHAT HI*FI WINNER ★★★★★

"... an excellent amp for the money & formidable with a Yamaha CD player!" Jul 99

**CDX393** MK2-CD PLAYER **£79**

SAVE £30

WHAT HI*FI WINNER ★★★★★

"A sound that's rich, sweet & easy...!" Aug 99

**RXV395RDS** RECEIVER **£169**

SAVE £80

Digital Home Cinema Receiver

**AX592** STEREO INTEGRATED AMP **£189**

SAVE £90

WHAT HI*FI WINNER ★★★★★

"Well equipped!" Apr 99

- 100 W/CH RMS power
- Remote

**KX393** CASSETTE DECK **£99**

SAVE £40

WHAT HI*FI WINNER ★★★★★

"Produces excellent results...!" Sep 98

**KX493** CASSETTE DECK **£129**

SAVE £50

WHAT HI*FI WINNER ★★★★★

"Purist deck delivers great performance...!" Apr 99

**CDX493** CD PLAYER **SALE CALL**

WHAT HI*FI WINNER ★★★★★

"Musical sound & fine facilities...!" Mar 99

**MDX-595** MINI DISC RECORDER **£199**

WHAT HI*FI WINNER ★★★★★

"... Very Impressive. A super playback & recording machine at a very competitive price...!" (Sep '99)

**KX580SE** CASSETTE DECK **£169**

SAVE £80

WHAT HI*FI WINNER ★★★★★ "

...A very fine cassette recorder!" Aug 99

**KX-W321** CASSETTE DECK **£119**

SAVE £40

- Twin cassette deck with twin auto reverse

**RXV-595a RDS £329**

SAVE £70

Brand new AC3/DTS receiver and RDS tuner and remote.

**Subwoofers SALE**

| | |
|---|---|
| YST-SW45 | £99 |
| YST-SW90 | £139 |
| YST-SW160 | £219 |
| YST-SW300 | £279 |

## •MEGA DEALS FROM YAMAHA

**Cinema 1 package £299** **Cinema 2 package £549**

Comprising: 700 FRONT, 70C1 CENTRE & 70 REAR
Up to 24 months interest free credit

Comprising: 703 FRONT, 70C2 CENTRE & 700 REAR
Up to 24 months interest free credit

0% APR up to 24 months

**Cinema 7 package £799**

Comprising: 773E FRONT, 77DS CENTRE & 77C1 REAR
Up to 24 months interest free credit

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *700 Series* | | |
| 700 | 0% APR* | £129 |
| 701 | 0% APR* | £159 |
| 702e | 0% APR | £199 |
| 703 | 0% APR | £299 |
| 704 | 0% APR | £449 |
| *700 Series Home Cinema* | | |
| 70C1, Centre | 0% APR* | £99 |
| 70C2, Centre | 0% APR* | £149 |
| 70D5, Rear | 0% APR | £199 |
| 7AS1, Subwoofer | 0% APR | £299 |
| 7AS2, Subwoofer | 0% APR | £399 |
| 70, Compact Speaker | 0% APR* | £99 |
| 70br, Wall Bracket | 0% APR* | £19 |
| *Home Cinema Packages* | | |
| Cinema One | | |
| 700 front/70C1Centre/70 Rear | 0% APR | £299 |
| Cinema Two | | |
| 703 front/70C2Centre/700 Rear | 0% APR | £549 |
| Cinema Six Pack | | |
| 70 x 5 Front/Rear & Centre | | |
| 70ASE Active Sub | 0% APR | £399 |
| Cinema 70 | | |
| 702e front/70C1 Centre/70ds Rear | 0% APR | £479 |
| Cinema 7 | | |
| 773e front/77ds Screen /77C1 Centre | 0% APR | £799 |
| *77 Series* | | |
| 771e | 0% APR | £199 |
| 772 | 0% APR | £249 |
| 773e | 0% APR | £399 |
| 774 | 0% APR | £499 |
| 775e | 0% APR | £799 |
| 77c1 | 0% APR | £199 |
| 77ds | 0% APR | £199 |

MISSION

## •MISSION

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *Cresta Series* | | |
| Cresta 1 † * | 0% APR* | £99 |
| Cresta 2 † * | 0% APR* | £149 |
| Cresta 3 † * | 0% APR | £249 |
| Cresta Centre † * | 0% APR* | £99 |
| *Q Series* | | |
| Q15 † * • | 0% APR | £199 |
| Q35 † * • | 0% APR | £349 |
| Q55 † * • | 0% APR | £499 |
| *Home Theatre* | | |
| Model 55 S Surrounds | 0% APR* | £129 |
| Model 60 S Surrounds | 0% APR | £199 |
| Model 34 DS Dipole | 0% APR | £699 |
| Model 80C | Centre 0% APR* | £129 |
| Model Q95C | Centre 0% APR | £199 |
| Model 100C | Centre 0% APR | £359 |
| Model 200C | Centre 0% APR | £699 |
| Model 20B | Subwoofer 0% APR | £349 |
| Model 30B | Subwoofer 0% APR | £499 |
| Model 45B | Subwoofer 0% APR | £799 |

†=Black Ash •=Mahogany *=Cherry

KEF

## •KEF

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *Mercury* | | |
| MX1 † • | 0% APR* | £119 |
| MX2 † • | 0% APR* | £149 |
| MX3 † • | 0% APR | £229 |
| *Mercury Home Cinema* | | |
| MR*Front or Rear □ | 0% APR* | £79 |
| MC Centre □ | 0% APR* | £99 |
| MM*Floor Standing □ | 0% APR | £299 |
| M Sub 10Subwoofer □ | 0% APR | £249 |
| *Revolution* | | |
| R1 | 0% APR* | £199 |
| R2 | 0% APR* | £349 |
| R3 | 0% APR | £549 |

These are all real cherry wood veneer finish

0% APR up to 24 months

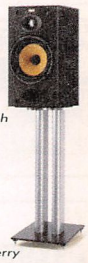
† = Light Mable • = Dark Oak □ = Birdseye Grey * = Cherry

## •TANNOY

**DM601 S2** STANDS OPTIONAL

CASH PRICE £199
DEPOSIT £19,
12 PAYMENTS OF £15
TOTAL £199 0%APR

0% APR up to 36 months



| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *600 Series 2* | | |
| DM601 S2 † | 0% APR | £199 |
| DM602 S2 † | 0% APR | £299 |
| DM603 S2 † | 0% APR | £549 |
| DM604 S2 † | 0% APR | £849 |
| DM605 S2 * | 0% APR | £1395 |
| CC6 S2 * | 0% APR | £199 |
| LCR6 s2 * | 0% APR | £349 |
| DS6 • | 0% APR | £399 |
| *Active Subwoofers* | | |
| ASW500 * | 0% APR | £349 |
| ASW1000 * | 0% APR | £499 |
| ASW2000 * | 0% APR | £799 |
| ASW3000 * | 0% APR | £999 |
| ASW4000 v | 0% APR | £1999 |

† Available in Black Ash/Cherrywood* Available in Black Ash
• Available in Black or White
* Available in Black Ash
❖ Available in Black Ash, Cherrywood and Red stained Cherry

## •B & W

**AWARD-WINNING LCD PROJECTORS**

**XVZW60E £2999**

**XVZ1E £2145**

0% APR option up to 9 months

**XVC20E £1029**

**XVC1E £619**

## •SHARP PROJECTORS

BUY AS A PACKAGE!

0% APR up to 24 months

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *Aegis Series* | | |
| Aegis One † • | 0% APR* | £149 |
| Aegis Two † • | 0% APR | £249 |
| Aegis Centre † | 0% APR* | £139 |
| Aegis Three † • | 0% APR | £349 |
| Aegis Sub † | 0% APR | £299 |
| *100 Series* | | |
| Ae100i † * • | 0% APR | £199 |
| Ae109 † * • | 0% APR | £349 |
| Ae120 † * • | 0% APR | £499 |

*Award - Winning package Deals*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Ae109 Front/AE100i Rear Aegis Centre/Aegis sub | 0% APR up to 24 months | £1000 |
| Ae109 Front/AE100i Rear AE107 Centre | 0% APR up to 24 months | £700 |

## •ACOUSTIC ENERGY AWARD WINNING SPEAKERS

# Hi SPEK electronics

## REASONS TO BUY FROM HI SPEK!

We are probably the only company that can offer you all these benefits: ● Huge range of models available from stock. ● Excellent pre and post sales service. ● Extremely competitive prices. ● Interest free credit option when purchased with an extended guarantee on sale lines and up to 36 months interest free credit on most other products. ● Excellent prices & cover on extended guarantees. ● Mail order and in-store advice on products. ● Main authorised dealers for all manufacturers advertised. ● No grey products - all products "CE" marked and intended for use within the European Union.

## OUR LOCATION: FINCHLEY

● We are one mile north of the junction at the A1000 and the A406 at Henly's Corner. Regents Park Road is a continuation of the Finchley Road (which originates in Central London) going North across the A406 North Circular. ● 5 minutes drive from junction 2 on the M1 southbound carriageway. ● Finchley Central is on the Northern Line. Turn left out of tube station, shop is 100 yards on the left. ● Parking is available opposite the store or in the streets behind.

## BRENTWOOD

● We are located 5 minutes drive from junction 28 on the M25 in Brentwood town centre. ● There is plenty of public car parking in the service road behind the store.

## HOW TO ORDER

Simply call our sales hotline on 0208 349 1166 and speak to a member of our sales team who will be happy to help answer any questions you may have and offer advice in ensuring you choose the right product for your needs. Alternatively you can e-mail your orders to **sales@hispek.com.**
Hi-Spek welcome all major credit and debit cards such as Visa, Mastercard, Amex, Delta, Switch and Connect.
All prices include V.A.T. Prices correct at time of printing. Prices valid until 7/04/00. Ommissions and errors excepted. Hi SPEK is not responsible for any printing errors.

## HOME DELIVERY

We deliver anywhere on the UK mainland within 48 hrs. We can also deliver within 24 hours where this is requested. We use one of the UK's leading ISO9002 approved carriers to deliver promptly and efficiently. Our warehouse staff pick and pack your orders with pride. Each order is carefully checked and packed using the most robust materials ready for despatch. There is a small charge for our delivery service - we do not charge for packing.
**Please note that all deliveries are subject to availability and rates refer to the UK Mainland. For 24 hour delivery some areas will not be covered EG. Scottish Highlands.**

**HI-SPEK ELECTRONICS**
**FINCHLEY CENTRAL, LONDON**
344-346 Regents Park Road,
London N3 2LJ.
Tel: 0208 349 1166
Fax: 0208 346 2268
Opening hours: Mon - Sat 9am-6pm,

**OPEN SUNDAY 11am-4pm**

Situated 100 yards from Finchley Central Tube on the Northern Line. Free car parking opposite store.

**HI-SPEK ELECTRONICS**
**BRENTWOOD, ESSEX**
111 High Street, Brentwood,
Essex CM14 4RX.
Tel: 01277 226 303
Fax: 01277 222 377
Opening hours: Mon to Sat 9am - 6pm
Situated 5 mins from junction 28 on the M25, public car park at the rear.

# MAIL ORDER CALL ON 0208 349 1166

# prc HI FI & VIDEO — THE CAMCORDER & VCR

## THE SERVICE

PRC Hi Fi and Video guarantee the best deals! We can also deliver your purchase anywhere in the UK within 24 hours! All the products we sell have a genuine manufacturers parts & labour guarantee (extended warranties are available at extra cost - Ask instore for details). We want to give you the very best - So visit our stores or call our hotline for the very best service in the business! We will beat any genuine deal.

## SHOWROOMS

At PRC Hi Fi and Video you'll find a massive range of products on display and available for demonstration. Our friendly and experienced staff will be able to help you through every step of your purchase.

## MAIL ORDER
### 0208 470 3499

If you can't visit one of our branches call our fast and efficient mail order service. we can take your order by credit card or cheque (made payable to 'PRC Hi Fi & Video') then leave the rest to us. your order can be dispatched 'Next Day' by carrier for peace of mind. Carriage is only £10 per large parcel and £5 for small accessories. Large parcels POA. (UK only).

## 0% FINANCE

At PRC we offer 0% Finance (subject to status) on selected products for up to 36 months - Ask instore for details. Not available on price match sales or special offers.

E&OE. Prices correct at time of going to press, include V.A.T. and are subject to change without notice. Pictures are for illustrative purposes only. Please mention our reference number (below) to claim these prices.

**We will beat any 0% finance deal!**

VISA MasterCard DELTA SWITCH

## BRANCHES

### London Branch
**0208 470 3499**

448/450 ROMFORD RD,
FOREST GATE, LONDON. E7 8DF
TEL: 0208 470 3499
FAX: 0208 552 2931
OPEN MON-SAT 9.00AM - 6.00PM

### Ilford Branch
**0208 514 7449**

95 CRANBROOK RD,
ILFORD, ESSEX. IG1 4PG
TEL: 0208 514 7449
OPEN MON-SAT 9.30AM - 6.00PM

**REF:PRC/WC03/00 PLEASE QUOTE THIS**

---

**Panasonic NVDS33 CAMCORDER** — SALE £CALL
- Mini DV Format Camcorder
- 200 x Digital Zoom
- Super Image Stabiliser

**SONY CCDTR713 CAMCORDER** — £CALL

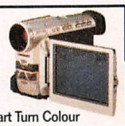
**SONY DCRTRV110 CAMCORDER** — BEST BUY — £565.00

**Panasonic NVEX3 CAMCORDER** — £CALL

**Panasonic NVMS5 CAMCORDER** — £895.00

**SONY CCDTRV36 CAMCORDER** — SALE £429.95
- Fold Out 2.5" Colour LCD Screen
- 72 x Digital Zoom
- Night Shot O Lux
- Built in Video Light

**Panasonic NVDS99 CAMCORDER** — SALE £849.95
- Mini DV Video Format Camcorder • 3.8" Smart Turn Colour LCD • x24/x120 Digital Zoom • Playback Digital Zoom • Digital Effects • 0.5 Second Jet Zoom • Variable Speed Search • Quick-Charge Facility • Multi Screen & Picture-in-Picture



**SONY CCDTR425 CAMCORDER** — £269.95

**SONY DCRPC100 CAMCORDER** — BEST BUY — £CALL

**Panasonic NVVX54 CAMCORDER** — £469.95

**Panasonic NVRX11 CAMCORDER** — £259.95

**SONY DCRTRV10 CAMCORDER** — SALE £965.00
- 3.5" LCD Screen
- 40 x Digital Zoom
- Memory Stick Slot Built-In

ALSO AVAILABLE DCRTRV8 £799.95

**SHARP VL-PD3 CAMCORDER** — SALE £699.95
- 10x Optical Zoom
- 2.5" LCD Screen
- Colour View Finder
- Still Photo Mode

**SONY DCRVX9000 CAMCORDER** — £2450.00

**SONY DCRVX1000 CAMCORDER** — £1989.95

**Panasonic NVDS11 CAMCORDER** — £629.95

**JVC GRDVX4 CAMCORDER** — £795.00

**SONY DCRTR7000 CAMCORDER** — SALE £519.95
- Digital 8 Format
- 80x Digital Zoom
- Super Nightshot

**JVC GVDVL9600 CAMCORDER** — SALE £1049.95
- 500 Lines Horizontal Resolution with High-Band processor.
- High-speed recording for high quality pro slow playback.
- 3.8" Amorphous-Silicon colour LCD monitor and colour viewfinder.

**SONY CCDTRV66 CAMCORDER** — £519.95

**SONY DSCF55 DIGITAL STILL CAMERA** — £399.95

**JVC GRFX10 CAMCORDER** — ALSO AVAILABLE GRFXM65 £439.95 — £299.95

**JVC GRDVL20 CAMCORDER** — ALSO AVAILABLE GRDVL30 £599.95 — BEST BUY — £489.95

**SONY DCRTRV900 CAMCORDER** — SALE £1449.95
- 48 x Digital Zoom
- Fold Out 3.5" Precision LCD/ Speaker

**JVC GRDVX7 CAMCORDER** — SALE £899.95
- Mini DV Format Camcorder
- 500 Line Resolution
- 4" LCD Screen

ALSO AVAILABLE GRDVX4 £795.00

**SONY DCRTRV510 CAMCORDER** — £789.95

**SONY DCRPC3 CAMCORDER** — ALSO AVAILABLE DCRPC2 £879.95 — £1049.95

**Canon DMXM1 CAMCORDER** — £CALL

**Canon DMMV20 CAMCORDER** — ALSO AVAILABLE DMMV20I — £745.00

**Canon DMXL1 CAMCORDER** — SALE £2495.00
- Mini DV Semi-Pro Camcorder
- Interchangeable Lens
- 500 Line Resolution

**NATIONWIDE DELIVERY • QUALITY SERVICE • BIG**

# ONE STOP SALE!

SONY **SLVSE70**
VIDEO RECORDER

£199.95

SONY **SLVT2000**
VIDEO RECORDER

£529.95

SONY **DHR1000**
VIDEO RECORDER

£1795.00

SAMSUNG **SV4000W**
VIDEO RECORDER

£699.95

JVC **HRS9600**
VIDEO RECORDER

£425.00

JVC **HRS7600**
VIDEO RECORDER

£239.95

Panasonic **NVDV10000**
DIGITAL VIDEO RECORDER
BEST BUY

£1395.00

Panasonic **NVHS950**
VIDEO RECORDER

£CALL

Panasonic **NVHD685**
VIDEO RECORDER

£CALL

TOSHIBA **V859**
VIDEO RECORDER

£227.95

**SAVINGS!**

## CAMCORDERS

### CANON

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| DM-MV20 | £ | 745.00 |
| DM-XL1 | £ | 2495.00 |
| DM-XM1 | £ | CALL |
| MV1 | £ | 699.95 |
| MV200 | £ | 649.95 |
| UC8000 | £ | 285.00 |
| UC9500 | £ | 339.95 |
| UC-V300 | £ | 425.00 |

### JVC

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| GR-DVL20 | £ | 489.95 |
| GR-DVL30 | £ | 599.95 |
| GR-DVL40 | £ | 645.00 |
| GR-DVL9000 | £ | 699.95 |
| GR-DVL9500 | £ | 839.95 |
| GR-DVL9600 | £ | 1049.95 |
| GR-DVX4 | £ | 795.00 |
| GR-DVX7 | £ | 899.95 |
| GR-FX10 | £ | 299.95 |
| GR-FXM15 | £ | 389.95 |
| GR-FXM65 | £ | 439.95 |

### PANASONIC

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| AGDP200 | £ | CALL |
| NV-DX110 | £ | 1149.95 |
| NV-DS8 | £ | CALL |
| NV-DS11 | £ | 629.95 |
| NV-DS33 | £ | CALL |
| NV-DS77 | £ | 699.95 |
| NV-DS99 | £ | 849.95 |
| NV-EX3 | £ | CALL |
| NV-M50B | £ | CALL |
| NV-MS5 | £ | 895.00 |
| NV-RX11 | £ | 259.95 |
| NV-RX24 | £ | 325.00 |
| NV-VX54 | £ | 469.95 |

### SANYO

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| VM-LC200 | £ | 349.95 |

### SHARP

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| VL-PD3 | £ | 699.95 |

### SONY

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| CCD-TR425 | £ | 269.95 |
| CCD-TR515 | £ | 339.95 |
| CCD-TR713 | £ | CALL |
| CCD-TR913 | £ | 369.95 |
| CCD-TRV27 | £ | 379.95 |
| CCD-TRV36 | £ | 429.95 |
| CCD-TRV46 | £ | 479.95 |
| CCD-TRV66 | £ | 519.95 |
| DCR-PC2 | £ | 879.95 |
| DCR-PC3 | £ | 1049.95 |
| DCR-PC7 | £ | 799.95 |
| DCR-PC100 | £ | CALL |
| DCR-TR7000 | £ | 519.95 |
| DCR-TRV110 | £ | 565.00 |
| DCR-TRV310 | £ | 699.95 |
| DCR-TRV510 | £ | 789.95 |
| DCR-TRV890 | £ | 1075.00 |
| DCR-TRV900 | £ | 1449.95 |
| DCR-TRV8 | £ | 799.95 |
| DCR-TRV9 | £ | 749.95 |
| DCR-TRV10 | £ | 965.00 |
| DCR-VX1000 | £ | 1989.95 |
| DCR-VX9000 | £ | 2450.00 |

## DIGITAL STILL CAMERAS

### SONY

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| MVCFD73 | £ | 395.00 |
| MVCFD83 | £ | 529.95 |
| MVCFD88 | £ | 629.95 |
| MVCFD91 | £ | 749.95 |
| MVCFDR3 | £ | 345.00 |
| CCDCRI | £ | 395.00 |
| DSCF55 | £ | 399.95 |
| DSCF505 | £ | 589.95 |
| DSCD770 | £ | 1399.95 |

## DIGITAL COLOUR PRINTERS

### JVC

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| GVDT1 | £ | 379.95 |
| GVDT3 | £ | 369.95 |
| GVHT1 | £ | CALL |
| GVPT2 PACK | £ | 379.95 |

### PANASONIC

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| NVMPD5B | £ | 339.95 |
| NVMPD7B | £ | 385.00 |

### SONY

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| FVP1 | £ | CALL |
| DPPMS300E | £ | CALL |

## VIDEO RECORDERS

### HITACHI

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| VTFX770 | £ | 199.95 |

### JVC

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| HM-DR10000 | £ | CALL |
| HRDD865 | £ | 245.00 |
| HRJ465 | £ | 149.95 |
| HRJ660 | £ | 145.00 |
| HRS6600 | £ | 219.95 |
| HRS7600 | £ | 239.95 |
| HRS8600 | £ | 355.00 |
| HRS9600 | £ | 425.00 |
| HR-DVS1 | £ | CALL |

### PANASONIC

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| AG4700 | £ | 799.95 |
| NVHD640 | £ | 185.00 |
| NVHD645 | £ | 199.95 |
| NVHD675 | £ | 229.95 |
| NVHD685 | £ | CALL |
| NVSD240 | £ | 135.00 |
| NVSD440 | £ | 149.95 |
| NVHS850 | £ | CALL |
| NVHS950 | £ | CALL |
| NVDV10000 | £ | 1395.00 |

### PHILIPS

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| VR607 | £ | 175.00 |
| VR700 | £ | 199.95 |
| VR708 | £ | 245.00 |
| VR805 | £ | 239.95 |
| VR806 | £ | 229.95 |
| VR850 | £ | 269.95 |
| VR860 | £ | 225.00 |
| VR969 | £ | 349.95 |
| VR1000 | £ | 255.00 |

### SAMSUNG

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| SV3000W | £ | CALL |
| SV4000W | £ | 699.95 |

### SONY

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| DHR-1000 | £ | 1795.00 |
| EVC2000 | £ | 439.95 |
| SLVE930 | £ | 329.95 |
| SLVE1000 | £ | 569.95 |
| SLVSE20 | £ | 134.95 |
| SLVSE30 | £ | 149.95 |
| SLVSE45 | £ | 189.95 |
| SLVSE70 | £ | 199.95 |
| SLVSE80 | £ | 225.00 |
| SLVSE85 | £ | 235.00 |
| SLVSF90 | £ | 295.00 |
| SLVSF99 | £ | 325.00 |
| SLV-T2000 | £ | 529.95 |

### TOSHIBA

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| V229 | £ | 115.00 |
| V709 | £ | 145.00 |
| V729 | £ | 159.95 |
| V829 | £ | 189.95 |
| V859 | £ | 227.95 |

## VIDEO WALKMANS

### SONY

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|---|---|---|
| GVD 300 | £ | 775.00 |
| GVD 900 | £ | 1095.95 |
| GVA 500 | £ | 575.00 |

## EDITING

### DATA VIDEO

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| SE200 PRO | £ | 339.95 |
| SE300 PRO | £ | 395.00 |
| VP263 | £ | 44.95 |
| VP270 | £ | 99.95 |

### GSE

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|---|---|---|
| MPE2000 PRO | £ | 1575.00 |

### HAMA

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| CASABLANCA | £ | CALL |
| REMOTECUT | £ | 95.00 |
| VIDEOCUT 204 | £ | 199.95 |
| VIDEOCUT 222 | £ | 259.95 |
| VIDEOCUT 230 | £ | 549.95 |

### JVC

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|---|---|---|
| GVCB3 | £ | 149.95 |

### PANASONIC

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|---|---|---|
| WJAVE55 | £ | 695.00 |
| VWEC500 | £ | 299.95 |
| VWDTA1 | £ | 99.95 |
| VWDTA5 | £ | 79.95 |
| VWDTA10B | £ | CALL |

### ROLL MASTER

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| DVR300 | £ | 399.95 |

### SENNHEISER

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|---|---|---|
| MKE 300 | £ | 109.95 |

### VIDEONICS

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| MX-1 Mixer | £ | 659.95 |
| MX-PRO DV | £ | CALL |
| MX-PRO | £ | 1275.00 |

## CAMCORDER BATTERIES

### CANON

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| BP711 | £ | 19.95 |
| BP714 | £ | 29.95 |
| BPE77 | £ | 29.95 |

### PANASONIC

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|---|---|---|
| VWVBD1E | £ | CALL |
| CGRD220 | £ | CALL |

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|---|---|---|
| NP68 | £ | 19.95 |
| NPF200 | £ | 59.95 |
| NPF550 | £ | 38.95 |
| NPF750 | £ | CALL |
| NPF950 | £ | 87.95 |

**Panasonic NVDS77 CAMCORDER** — SALE £699.95 SAVE £££'S

- DV Camcorder
- 3.8' LCD Screen
- Photo Shot
- Colour View Finder
- 100 x Digital Zoom

1/2 price VWDTA5 pc software only £49.95 if purchased with NVDS77

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- 20 x Optical Zoom, 80 x Digital Zoom
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- 100 x Super Digital Zoom
- 500 Lines Horizontal Resolution with High Band Processor
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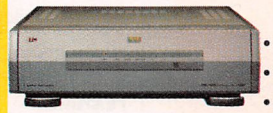
**JVC HM-DR10000 DIGITAL VHS VIDEO RECORDER** — SALE £CALL SAVE £££'S



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| KV28WS2 | KV24WX1 |
| KV32WF1 | KV32WS2 |

...with any of these VCR's at the special prices listed below

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- 86cm V Quintrix Pure Flat Picture Tube
- Widescreen Format
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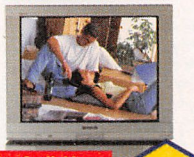
## SONY KV32DX20

Also Available KV28DX20 £825.00 — £1139.95

## Panasonic TX33AK10C



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- "Art Couture" interior design
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- 66cm Visible Horizontal & Vertical Flat Screen
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- 103cm (41") integrated digital rear projection TV • Analogue and digital tuning • Digital picture and sound • PCMCIA input for pay channels module • Nicam stereo • Co-axial speaker system • Smart, zoom, wide,

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**FEATURES**
- 50"(127cm) Widescreen & Projection TV
- Anti Reflective Scratch Proof Screen
- Digital Constant Image (DCI)
- NTSC Video Input

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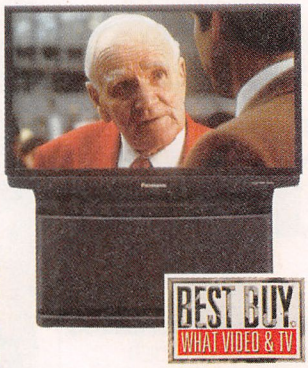
ALSO AVAILABLE KL37W2 £1595.00

## Panasonic TX47PT1 TELEVISION



**FEATURES**
- 119cm V Widescreen Display
- Wide Digital plus Technology
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- Dolby Pro-logic Surround Decoder

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Also Available KV32FX20 £995.00 — £649.95

## SONY KV32WF1

Also Available KV28WF1 £539.95 — £749.95

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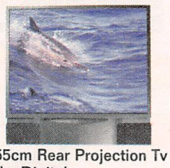

- V155cm Rear Projection Tv
- Dolby Digital
- Pro-Logic TV
- Digital Picture Processing

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## TOSHIBA 56PW8DB

- 56" (142cm) Hi-Brite Screen
- DVD Compatible
- Dolby Digital Surround Sound
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- 89cm Visible Screen Size Dolby Digital TV • Dolby Digital & Dolby pro-logic surround • 100W RMS, 11 Speaker Audio System • Nicam Digital Stereo • Digital picture processing

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- V109cm Rear Projection TV-Nicam
- Hi-Brite Screen
- Digital Picture Processing
- Multi Standard Tuner
- Front Panel Lock

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## TOSHIBA 32WD98B

- 76cm Dolby digital widescreen TV
- Digital picture processing
- Picture size adjustment
- Icon on-screen display
- Super scene control

Also Available 28WD98B £CALL — £1195.00

## TOSHIBA 32ZD98B

- 76cm Visible Widescreen (16:9) Television • Flat Face • 100Hz
- Digital Picture Processing
- Super Scene Control
- Selectable Picture

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## PHILIPS 32PW9615C

- 32" (76cm) Super Flat Blackline-S picture tube • 100Hz Digital Scan/ Natural Motion • Digital CrystalClear with Dynamic Contrast • Widescreen Plus • Active Control • Dolby Digital & Pro-Logic

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- Super Flat Blackline 'S' Picture Tube
- Dolby Pro Logic surround Sound
- Digital Sound Processing
- On Screen Menu Display

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- 76cm Fully Integrated Digital Widescreen TV
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- 100Hz Digital Scan
- Nicam Stereo with Excellent Sound
- Crystal Clear Picture

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| TXW28R4DPC | £ 575.00 |
| TXW32R4DP | £ 825.00 |
| TXW36D3DP | £ 1599.95 |
| TX29AK1C | £ 559.95 |
| TX33AK10C | £ 1095.00 |
| TX32DK1 | £ 825.00 |
| TX32DK2 | £ 895.00 |
| TX28DT2C | £ 875.00 |
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| TX25MK1 | £ 339.95 |
| TX28MK1M | £ 369.95 |
| TX32PF10C | £ CALL |
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| TX28PK1C | £ 639.95 |
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| TX32PK1C | £ 939.95 |
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| 28PW6332D | £ 539.95 |
| 32PW6332C | £ 725.00 |
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| 32DW6834C | £ CALL |
| 32PW9523C | £ 1199.95 |
| 32PW9534C | £ 1199.95 |
| 28PW9535C | £ 1039.95 |
| 32PW9535C | £ CALL |
| 32PW9544C | £ 1199.95 |
| 28PW9545C | £ 1039.95 |
| 32PW9545C | £ 1239.95 |
| 28PW9615C | £ CALL |
| 32PW9615C | £ CALL |
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| KV21X5 | £ 245.00 |
| KV25X5 | £ 319.95 |
| KV29X5 | £ 399.95 |
| KV24WX1 | £ 415.00 |
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| KV28DS60 | £ 1275.00 |
| KV32DS60 | £ CALL |
| KV28DX20 | £ 825.00 |
| KV32DX20 | £ 1139.95 |
| KV28FC60Z | £ 1229.95 |
| KV32FC60Z | £ 1539.95 |
| KV28FD1 | £ CALL |
| KV32FD1 | £ CALL |
| KV29FS60 | £ CALL |
| KV28FX20 | £ 649.95 |
| KV28FX60 | £ 899.95 |
| KV29FX20 | £ 499.95 |
| KV29FX60 | £ CALL |
| KV32FX20 | £ 995.00 |
| KV32FX60 | £ CALL |
| KV28WF1 | £ 539.95 |
| KV32WF1 | £ 749.95 |
| KV20WS1 | £ 365.00 |
| KV28WS2 | £ 595.00 |
| KV32WS2 | £ 889.95 |
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| 2987 DB | £ 518.00 |
| 3387 DB | £ 799.95 |
| 3787 DB | £ 1275.00 |
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| 32WT98B | £ CALL |
| 28WD98B | £ CALL |
| 32WD98B | £ 1195.00 |
| 32ZD98B | £ CALL |
| 40PW8DB | £ CALL |
| 56PW8DB | £ CALL |
| 43PJ93B | £ CALL |
| 55PJ6DB | £ CALL |
| 50PJ98B | £ 1895.00 |
| 61PJ98B | £ 2595.00 |

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| **FUJITSU** | |
| PDS4203 | £ CALL |
| **PANASONIC** | |
| TC37PD1 | £ 6395.00 |
| TC42PD1 | £ 8199.95 |
| **PHILIPS** | |
| 42PF9952 | £ CALL |
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| PDP502MXE | £ CALL |
| **SONY** | |
| PFM500A2W | £ 6795.00 |

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| 14PV210 | £ 199.95 |
| 14PV320 | £ 199.95 |
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| 14PV340 | £ 245.00 |
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| 20PV220 | £ 289.95 |
| 21PV288 | £ 295.00 |
| 21PV320 | £ 319.95 |
| 21PV688 | £ 365.00 |
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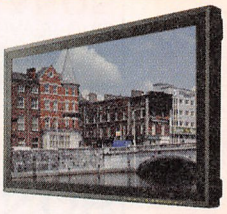

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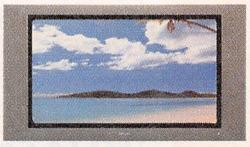

- Gas Plasma Flat TV (14.5cm deep)
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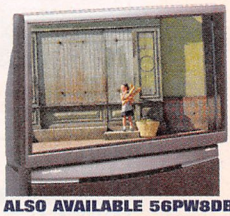

- 40" (102cm) Widescreen & Projection TV
- Dolby Digital Surround Sound
- Digital Picture Processing
- Hi-Brite Screen

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Home Cinema BUY
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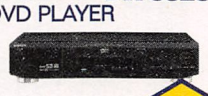

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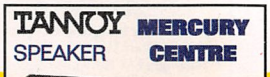

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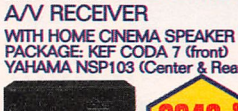
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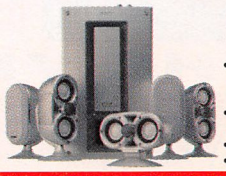
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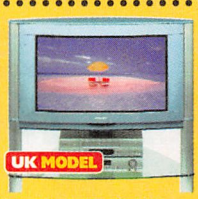

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| PANASONIC TX28DT2 | freephone |
| PANASONIC TX28PK1 | freephone |
| PANASONIC TX28PK2 | freephone |
| PANASONIC TX32DT2 | freephone |
| PANASONIC TX32PK1 | freephone |
| PANASONIC TX32PK2 | freephone |
| PANASONIC TX32D2 | freephone |
| PANASONIC TXW32R4 | freephone |
| PANASONIC TXW32R4DP | freephone |
| PANASONIC TXW36D3DP | freephone |
| PHILIPS 28PW6324D | freephone |
| PHILIPS 28PW6332C | freephone |
| PHILIPS 28PW9515 | freephone |
| PHILIPS 32PW6332C | freephone |
| PHILIPS 32PW9515 | freephone |
| PHILIPS 32DW6834D | freephone |
| PHILIPS 32PW6324C | freephone |
| PHILIPS 32PW9523 | freephone |

| | EMPIRE PRICE |
|---|---|
| PHILIPS 32PW9615C | freephone |
| SONY KV28DS20S | freephone |
| SONY KV28DS60S | freephone |
| SONY KV28FD1S | freephone |
| SONY KV28FX20S | freephone |
| SONY KV28FX60S | freephone |
| SONY KV28WF1S | freephone |
| SONY KV32WF1S | freephone |
| SONY KV32WS25 | freephone |
| SONY KV32DS20S | freephone |
| SONY KV32DS60S | freephone |
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| TOSHIBA 28MW7D | freephone |
| TOSHIBA 28W8DB | freephone |
| TOSHIBA 28W93B | freephone |
| TOSHIBA 32WD98B | freephone |
| TOSHIBA 32ZD98B | freephone |
| TOSHIBA 32MW7DB | freephone |
| TOSHIBA 32W8DB | freephone |

### PROJECTION TELEVISIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| PANASONIC TX47PT1 | freephone |
| PHILIPS 46PP9501 | freephone |
| PIONEER SDT50W1 | freephone |
| SONY KP46S4 | freephone |
| SONY KL50W2 | freephone |
| TOSHIBA 40PW8DB | freephone |
| TOSHIBA 43PJ93B | freephone |
| TOSHIBA 50PJ98B | freephone |
| TOSHIBA 56PW8DB | freephone |

### LCD VIDEO PROJECTORS

| | |
|---|---|
| SHARP XVC1E | freephone |
| SHARP XVC20E | freephone |
| SHARP XVZ1E | freephone |

### DVD PLAYERS

| | |
|---|---|
| DENON DVD3000 | freephone |
| PANASONIC DVDA360EB/ES | freephone |
| PHILIPS DVD710 | freephone |
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| PIONEER DV525 | freephone |
| PIONEER DV717 | freephone |
| PIONEER DV919F | freephone |
| SAMSUNG DVD709 | freephone |
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| SONY DVPS525D | freephone |
| SONY DVPS725D | freephone |
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| TOSHIBA SD9000 | freephone |
| YAMAHA DVDS795 | freephone |

### TV/VIDEO COMBINATION

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| AIWA VXT147 | freephone |
| DAEWOO GB14F7 | freephone |
| PHILIPS 14PV210 | freephone |
| PHILIPS 14PV320 | freephone |
| PHILIPS 14PV325 | freephone |
| PHILIPS 21PV688 | freephone |
| SONY KV14V6 | freephone |
| SONY KV21V6S | freephone |

### CAMCORDERS

#### VHS C' CAMCORDERS:

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|---|---|
| JVC GR-FX11 | freephone |
| JVC GR-FXM15 | freephone |
| PANASONIC NV-MS5B (S-VHS) | freephone |

#### VIDEO 8 CAMCORDERS:

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|---|---|
| CANON UC8000 | freephone |
| CANON UC9500 | freephone |
| SAMSUNG VPA30 | freephone |
| SAMSUNG VPA800 | freephone |
| SAMSUNG VPL300 | freephone |
| SHARP VLE630H | freephone |
| SHARP VLE780H | freephone |
| SONY CCD-TR425 | freephone |
| SONY CCD-TRV27 | freephone |

#### HI-8 CAMCORDERS:

| | |
|---|---|
| SAMSUNG VPA300 | freephone |
| SHARP VLH860H | freephone |
| SONY CCD-TR515 | freephone |
| SONY CCD-TR713 | freephone |
| SONY CCD-TR913 | freephone |
| SONY CCD-TRV36 | freephone |
| SONY CCD-TRV46 | freephone |
| SONY CCD-TRV66 | freephone |

#### DIGITAL DV CAMCORDERS:

| | |
|---|---|
| CANON MV1 | freephone |
| CANON MV20 | freephone |
| CANON MV200 | freephone |
| JVC GRDVL9500 | freephone |
| JVC GRDVL9600 | freephone |
| JVC GRDVL20 | freephone |
| JVC GRDVL40 | freephone |

| | EMPIRE PRICE |
|---|---|
| JVC GRDVX4 | freephone |
| JVC GRDVX7 | freephone |
| PANASONIC NVDS8B | freephone |
| PANASONIC NVDS11B | freephone |
| PANASONIC NVDS33B | freephone |
| PANASONIC NVDS99B | freephone |
| PANASONIC NVDX110B | freephone |
| PANASONIC NVEX3B | freephone |
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| SONY DCRPC3 | freephone |
| SONY DCRPC100 | freephone |
| SONY DCRTRV8 | freephone |
| SONY DCRTRV10 | freephone |
| SONY DCRTRV890 | freephone |
| SONY DCRTRV900 | freephone |

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| | |
|---|---|
| SONY DCRTR7000 | freephone |
| SONY DCRTRV110 | freephone |
| SONY DCRTRV310 | freephone |
| SONY DCRTRV510 | freephone |

### MONO TELEVISIONS

| | |
|---|---|
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| JVC CJT21 | freephone |
| PANASONIC TX21S3T | freephone |
| SONY KV21T3S | freephone |
| TOSHIBA 2181TB | freephone |
| TOSHIBA 2550TB | freephone |

### HOME CINEMA SEPARATES

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| DENON AVR2800 | freephone |
| DENON AVR3300 | freephone |
| KENWOOD KRFV7010 | freephone |
| KENWOOD KTF2010 | freephone |
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| YAMAHA DPSA2 | freephone |
| YAMAHA RXV393RDS | freephone |
| YAMAHA RXV595A | freephone |
| YAMAHA RXV795RDS | freephone |

### HOME CINEMA LOUDSPEAKERS

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| JBL MR CENTRE | freephone |
| KEF 80C | freephone |
| KEF Q95C | freephone |
| KEF 20B | freephone |
| KEF 30B | freephone |
| KEF 60S | freephone |
| MISSION 701 | freephone |
| MISSION 70C1 | freephone |
| MISSION 70C2 | freephone |
| MISSION 70AS | freephone |
| TANNOY Mercury MC | freephone |
| YAMAHA NSC105 | freephone |
| YAMAHA NSE105 | freephone |
| YAMAHA NSP300 | freephone |
| YAMAHA YSTSW90 | freephone |
| YAMAHA YSTSW300 | freephone |

### HI-FI SYSTEMS

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| AIWA NSXS222 | freephone |
| AIWA NSXS999 | freephone |
| AIWA XRM11 | freephone |
| AIWA XRM33 | freephone |
| DENON 6.5 | freephone |
| DENON DF88 | freephone |
| DENON DF100 | freephone |
| DENON DM3 | freephone |
| DENON DM5 | freephone |
| DENON DM10 | freephone |
| JVC J30 | freephone |
| JVC J75R | freephone |
| JVC UXT150 | freephone |
| JVC UXD88 | freephone |
| JVC UX7000R | freephone |
| KENWOOD HM381MD | freephone |
| KENWOOD VH600 | freephone |
| PIONEER NS6T | freephone |
| PIONEER NSDV1 | freephone |
| PIONEER IS21MD | freephone |
| PIONEER IS21T | freephone |
| PANASONIC SG-PM01 | freephone |
| PANASONIC SG-PM20 | freephone |
| SONY CMTCP1 | freephone |
| SONY DHCMD373T | freephone |
| SONY MHCRXD5 | freephone |
| SONY MHCRXD7 | freephone |
| SONY MHCRXD8S | freephone |
| SONY MHCRXD10 | freephone |
| SONY SD1T | freephone |
| SONY SD3T | freephone |
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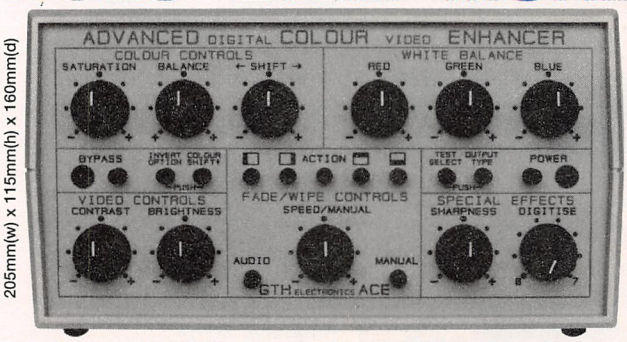


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# HIGH SOCIETY

**Although digital-everything is the order of the day, there's still life in the analogue camcorder formats yet. Julia Jenkins checks out four high-band hopefuls**

With so much talk about digital these days, it's easy to overlook some of the more popular formats in the camcorder world. Take Hi8, for instance. Now accounting for 20 per cent of the market, prices have been squeezed down to a level once reserved for 8mm thanks to the arrival of DV, which means that if you're not ready for (or not interested in) digital, you could cut yourself a great deal.

A couple of years ago, the price of Hi8 cams dipped to around £700 – then considered to be absolute an bargain. However, it's now possible to find new models for as little as £350, with the same picture quality and simple run-down of features as before, making video-making much more affordable.

With this in mind, we've put together a round-up of four Hi8 camcorders ranging in price from £350 to £600 to give you a taste of what's available.

SONY CCD-TR913 | Hi8 camcorder | GUIDE PRICE: £600

# FEATURED ATTRACTION

**Need a cam that's a few steps up from a point-and-shooter? Sony may have just the machine for you, the £600 CCD-TR913**

Heavily laden with creative features, Sony's CCD-TR913 is an ambitious camcorder suitable for adventurous movie-makers. Built in the classic mould of Sony's tried-and-tested Handycam, it utilises a simple layout with a traditional black-and-white viewfinder, while offering a pleasing range of new and innovative features.

The TR913 is one of three high-band machines launched by Sony within the last year, proving that the company still has faith in analogue formats.

## DESCRIPTION

The size, shape and basic design of the machine differs little from Sony's previous palmcorders, though the silver fascia and stylish built-in video light give the camcorder a distinctly modern feel.

## OPERATION

The TR913 is an incredibly straightforward machine to get to grips with, sporting a standard set of Program AE modes and an impressive 20x optical zoom lens, which can be digitally boosted to 80x.

You can manually control both focus and exposure, while a backlight compensation control helps to brighten images in silhouette. Sony's acclaimed NightShot makes an appearance on the TR913, allowing shooting in complete darkness. There's also a built-in video light, which is fairly good at illuminating subjects close by, for interviews, etc. There's an unusually sophisticated fader, which boasts six options: Fade to/from black, Mosaic, Stripe, Bounce, Overlap and Wipe.

The eight picture effects include Pastel, Sepia, Solarise and Stretch. And as if that wasn't enough, the TR913 also sports a range of digital effects such as Still and Flash motion, which can be applied during shooting or playback.

Sony has put a lot of work into extending battery life, and the supplied Info-lithium battery lasts for well over 1hr under normal shooting conditions. The state of the battery charge is also displayed in the viewfinder and side LCD panel.

There's also a Control-L/LANC socket, which means that the cam can be connected to an edit controller for post-production. A range of preset titles are included, as is a facility to make your own. These can be added during shooting or playback.

## PERFORMANCE

The TR913 features a Hi8 XR recording system, which helps to reduce picture noise, and it does make a small difference to the overall picture quality compared with earlier high-band cams. Resolution is good at around 380 lines, while picture noise is minimal, and there's even a slight increase in the amount of image detail.

Colours look lifelike, though there is a touch of blurring around areas of high saturation. However, on replay, pictures are stable and slow-mo/still frames are noise-free.

The front-mounted stereo microphone is able to create a spatial effect when recording subjects a few feet in front of the camcorder, and forward sensitivity is excellent.

NightShot is incredibly effective at shooting in total darkness, though images do have a greenish tint. The IR emitters help to illuminate the scene well, though they do give off a slight red glow during shooting.

## CONCLUSION

The TR913 has been built to a tried-and-tested formula, and sports exciting and innovative features such as NightShot and XR extended resolution.

Creative features abound, and staples such as manual focus have been given a boost with the addition of manual exposure. The only standard manual control missing is white balance, which we would have expected to see on a machine at this price.

Nevertheless, the TR913 has plenty to offer enthusiastic video-makers. If you don't need the extra performance offered by digital, or you're after value for money, you can't go far wrong with this. Warmly recommended.

## VERDICT

**Good all-round performance married with a healthy range of features**

## SPECIFICATIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| PICTURE | 9/10 |
| SOUND | 9/10 |
| FEATURES | 9/10 |
| EASE OF USE | 8/10 |
| OVERALL | 9/10 |

**WHAT'S GOOD**

NightShot; manual features; Control-L edit socket

**WHAT'S BAD**

80x digital zoom

**FEATURES**

Manual focus; NightShot; seven-mode Program AE; backlight compensation; timebase corrector; Control-L/LANC socket; 20x optical (80x digital) zoom; digital picture effects; LaserLink; character generator; NTSC replay; self-timer; six-mode fader

**SOCKETS**

AV out (phono); S-video out; mic; headphones; LANC edit terminal; DC power/charge (proprietary 3-pin)

**DIMENSIONS**

102(w) x 106(h) x 195(d)mm

**WEIGHT**

0.95kg

**TEST DATA**

Frequency response at 3.5MHz: -15.10dB (excellent)
Signal-to-noise ratio: -44.7dB (excellent)
Chroma AM/PM: -41.1dB/-46.1dB (excellent/excellent)
Horizontal sync jitter: 2ns (excellent)

SAMSUNG VP-A800 | Hi8 camcorder

GUIDE PRICE: £350

# FALSE ECONOMY

**It seems almost impossible to produce a fully-fledged Hi8 camcorder for £350, but Samsung has proved that it can be done**

Those who thought that Hi8 camcorders would be pushed out of the market by digital were wrong. At this price, you'd think that consumers would be mad to consider buying anything less than Hi8, especially if your budget is tight.

But you'd be forgiven for thinking that there's something wrong with a Hi8 machine priced below £500 at launch. It's a perfectly normal Hi8 camcorder, though a closer inspection does reveal one or two foibles.

## DESCRIPTION

Design-wise, the VP-A800 looks pretty modern and stylish, with its silver/black finish and thoughtfully placed features, though when it's handled it doesn't quite feel the same as its more expensive peers. Having said that, it comes with a handful of useful features which are dotted along the machine's left flank.

## OPERATION

The VP-A800's feature list is pretty thorough, though there's not much in the way of manual overrides. It does, however, sport a five-mode Program AE plus five digital special effects: Make-up (which allows the user to colour parts of the picture red, yellow, blue or green), plus Wide, Cinema, Emboss and Mosaic, each of which can be activated using the controls towards the rear of the machine.

It also boasts a 22x optical zoom, which is impressive on a camcorder at this price, and can be digitally boosted to 440x.

The VP-A800 also sports a backlight compensation function and features XDR (Extended Dynamic Range), which works to increase the amount of detail in a bright scene.

Manual focus is the key staple here. It's operated with a combination of manual focus button to select the mode, then a small wheel situated to the front of the camcorder to sharpen scenes. It's pretty sensitive and easy to use, and doesn't cause unnecessary noise even though it's fairly close to the stereo mic.

Other handy features include the self-timer and title generator but there's no Control-L editing socket or headphone socket.

## PERFORMANCE

Hi8 machine typically resolve around 400 lines, but the VP-A800 doesn't quite live up to expectations in that respect. It manages a resolution of around 350 lines, which although not quite comparable with more expensive Hi8 camcorders, knocks the socks off comparably priced 8mm models.

There's nothing in the way of colour bleed or smearing, and picture noise is kept to a minimum. As far as sound is concerned, the A800 fares pretty well. The front-mounted mic is fairly sensitive, and manages to create a decent stereo image. Motor noise isn't a problem in everyday situations, though you can perceive a slight motor whine and handling noise in quieter surroundings.

The main problem with the A800 is the stability of the deck mechanism. Even a slight knock during recording or playback makes the picture shake, and gentle rocking movements cause severe picture disruption. We recommend that the camcorder is handled extremely gently, or used with a tripod where possible.

## CONCLUSION

Even though the deck mechanism seems much more sensitive than we'd expect, the VP-A800 is a real bargain at £350. There's no doubt that picture quality, while not comparable to other Hi8 machines we've looked at, is dramatically better than any 8mm machine on the market.

Feature-wise, the VP-A800 is a little thin on the ground. Although it has manual focus and a standard Program AE range, it misses a manual white balance or exposure.

Nonetheless, for the price, this machine is worth a look.

## VERDICT

**Although not a stunning performer, for £350 it's a real bargain**

## SPECIFICATIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| PICTURE | 7/10 |
| SOUND | 8/10 |
| FEATURES | 7/10 |
| EASE OF USE | 7/10 |
| OVERALL | 7/10 |

**WHAT'S GOOD**
Price; 22x optical zoom

**WHAT'S BAD**
No edit socket; digital zoom; unstable deck mechanism

**FEATURES**
Manual focus; 22x optical (440x digital) zoom; five-mode Program AE; fader; backlight compensation; character generator; seven digital effects; self-timer; battery refresh

**SOCKETS**
AV out; S-video out (mini-DIN); microphone (mini-jack)

**DIMENSIONS**
105(w) x 104(h) x 210(d)mm

**WEIGHT**
0.9kg

**TEST DATA**
Frequency response at 3.5MHz: -12.42dB (very good)
Signal-to-noise ratio: -40.2dB (very good)
Chroma AM/PM: -45.17dB/-43.52dB (very good/very good)
Horizontal sync jitter: 854ns (fair)

CANON UC-V20HI | Hi8 camcorder | GUIDE PRICE: £600

# HI AND MIGHTY

**Canon seems to be on a winner with its high-band UC-V20Hi, and at £600, it shouldn't go far wrong**

The UC-V20Hi has bags of appeal. Delivering high-band recording and hi-fi stereo sound, it looks an attractive prospect, while sensible options such as an optical image stabiliser and Canon's own FlexiZone system help the V20Hi stand out from the crowd.

## DESCRIPTION

Although there's strong competition in the Hi8 field at the moment, Canon's V20Hi boasts plenty of essential features. First-timers will find everything they need, and the built-in LCD screen is a real bonus. With its silver finish, smooth contours and sensible layout, the V20Hi seems an attractive prospect, though Canon has cut one or two corners to produce this machine at such a low price.

## OPERATION

Styled in a traditional manner, the UC-V20Hi is a simple machine to use. The 2.5in LCD screen is mounted on the side and can be flipped forwards and rotated to allow self-filming. It can also be angled to allow shooting above the head, which is useful in crowds.

The cam sports a traditional black-and-white viewfinder – preferable to colour for accurate focusing and when shooting in bright sunlight. The LCD screen comes into its own however, when checking colours of each scene, as these can't be monitored using the viewfinder.

Boasting a hefty 22x optical lens, the V20Hi is off to a good start. The zoom can also be digitally boosted to 440x, though you won't get much use out of it at that end of the scale, as the picture is unrecognisable. The built-in optical image stabiliser helps to iron out shakes and jitters in the footage.

The V20Hi sports four Program AE modes: Sports, Portrait, Spotlight and Sand & Snow, all of which are accessed via a large dial on the side of the machine. Beneath this is the manual focus control. It's operated using a small thumbwheel, which is pretty effective and doesn't cause much handling noise.

On a practical note, the V20Hi does away with a complicated onscreen menu system to access useful features. Instead, most functions have their own buttons, though this means that the majority are housed behind the cam's LCD screen, which is awkward if you don't want to use the cam with its screen open.

At the rear of the machine is the FlexiZone focus/exposure system. It works by moving a small square around the viewfinder, which then either sharpens the image or exposes correctly for that particular point depending on the setting.

## PERFORMANCE

Picture performance is impressive for a Hi8 camcorder. Resolution is in the region of 380 lines, while there's no hint of colour bleed. Picture detail is also top-notch – images look crisp and well-defined, while colours are lifelike and vibrant.

Our only criticism is that footage taken in low light is rather poor, and the auto focus mechanism is rather sluggish, though the cam's manual focus facility overcomes this shortfall.

Sound also fares well. The front-mounted stereo mic provides a good stereo effect, with a good treble response. We should mention the Lithium-ion battery's running time – we managed just over 90min without using the LCD screen, which would drain the power somewhat quicker.

## CONCLUSION

The current price of digital cams means that you could, in fact, opt for DV for little more than a Hi8 machine. Having said that, the UC-V20Hi offers a good number of features and is cheaper than similarly specified digital machines with built-in LCD screens. We're surprised at the absence of Control-L/LANC edit/headphone sockets.

However, with the UC-V200's impressive picture and sound performance, you can't really go wrong, and the LCD screen means that reviewing footage will be an absolute doddle.

## VERDICT

**Despite some minor omissions, impressive picture/sound make the UC-V200 a worthy choice**

## SPECIFICATIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| PICTURE | 8/10 |
| SOUND | 8/10 |
| FEATURES | 7/10 |
| EASE OF USE | 8/10 |
| OVERALL | 8/10 |

**WHAT'S GOOD**

FlexiZone control; LCD screen

**WHAT'S BAD**

440x digital zoom; lack of headphone or edit socket

**FEATURES**

Manual focus; 22x optical (440x digital) zoom; 2.5in LCD screen; four-mode Program AE; backlight compensation; character generator; image stabiliser; six digital effects; six-mode fader, FlexiZone focus/exposure; character generator; preset titles; NTSC replay

**SOCKETS**

AV out jack; S-video out; mic; DC in/out

**DIMENSIONS**

117(h) x 114(w) x 215(d)mm

**WEIGHT**

1.1kg

**TEST DATA**

Frequency response at 3.5MHz: -10.5dB (excellent)
Signal-to-noise ratio: -42.7dB (excellent)
Chroma AM/PM: -44.6dB/-33.3dB (very good/very good)
Horizontal sync jitter: 545ns (very good)

SAMSUNG VP-L980 | Hi8 camcorder | GUIDE PRICE: £600

# FAMILY FAVOURITE?

**With a history of producing camcorders at knock-down prices, you'd expect Samsung's VP-L980 to offer astounding value for money. But is there a price to pay?**

Aimed at the family video-maker, Samsung's £550 VP-L980 seems to have a lot going for it. The LCD screen is a real bonus on a machine at this price, while Hi8 picture quality and stereo sound shows that it's more than just a beginner's model. But why has Samsung to cut back on a number of useful features?

## DESCRIPTION

Sporting a small, circular video light and chrome-and-black body, the L980 seems faintly reminiscent of Sony's latest models. At first glance, it looks as if features have been kept to an absolute minimum as the camcorder's left flank is completely bare, though closer inspection reveals an array of buttons behind the LCD screen.

A smattering of controls on top of the camcorder operate playback, and these also double-up as the manual focus control in Camera mode.

## OPERATION

The L980 sports a whopping 22x optical zoom. Almost all of the camcorder's creative features are tucked away behind the 3in LCD screen. This is a pain, as it means that you have to open the screen every time you want to change a setting. Thankfully though, the manual focus controls are located on top of the cam.

The L980 is very easy to use. First, press the MF/AF button, then simply sharpen the image with two buttons either side of it. The only snag is that it's rather cumbersome to operate with the LCD screen open. It's best to shoot using the optical black-and-white viewfinder when using manual focus.

Behind the screen is also where you'll find the Menu control. Once pressed, you're confronted with a wide range of options, such as Program AE, picture adjust and Demo mode. There are six Program AE modes plus seven digital special effects, including Make-up, Emboss, Negative, Mirror and Mosaic.

One annoying aspect of the menu system is that if you leave the cam untouched for a few minutes once you've accessed the menu, items (such as titles or languages ) disappear and you have to start selecting all over again.

The L980 features a digital image stabiliser, which works very well. It doesn't make too much difference to picture quality or size, and helps counteract camera shake during up and down or side-to-side movements.

There's also a fader, which fades picture/sound in or out together, and XDR (extended dynamic range), which boosts subject detail. The L980 also features a conventional backlight compensation control for shooting against bright backgrounds. The L980 has a range of 16 titles to choose from, plus six languages.

You can also set the cam's regular viewfinder to operate when the LCD screen is open, which is something most other cams won't let you do.

## PERFORMANCE

The L980's picture quality is fair. It's not marred by colour bleed, and picture noise is minimal. Resolution is around 360 lines, and though this isn't as good as some Hi8 cams we've looked at, it's a big jump up from 8mm.

Hi-fi sound quality is good, and the front-mounted mic is fairly responsive. The only downside is a very slight – but noticeable – mechanical rattling sound coming from the cam, which is evident on recordings taken in a quiet environment.

## CONCLUSION

The VP-L980 seems like a bargain. There aren't many new Hi8 cams with LCD screens around at this price. However, you won't be able to get very creative with this cam. It lacks manual controls such as exposure and white balance, and doesn't have an edit socket. Save up and go for something a little more sophisticated ❐

## VERDICT

**A false economy, especially for more experienced video-makers**

## SPECIFICATIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| SOUND | 7/10 |
| FEATURES | 9/10 |
| EASE OF USE | 8/10 |
| OVERALL | 7/10 |

**KEY FEATURES**
Dolby Digital/DTS
5 x 75W
RDS tuner

**WHAT'S GOOD**
Sound; versatility

**WHAT'S BAD**
No S-video support

**FEATURES**
Dolby Pro-Logic/Dolby Digital/DTS decoding; 5 x 75W amplification; cinema equaliser; dynamic range compression; DSP effects; tone control; test tone generator; RDS tuner

**SOCKETS**
***Front:*** headphone socket
***Rear:*** eight stereo phono inputs; five composite video inputs; two optical digital inputs; coaxial digital input; three stereo phono outputs; three composite video outputs; pre-outs for front left and right, centre and sub; FM antenna input; AM loop antenna socket

**DIMENSIONS**
434(w) x 171(h) x 416(d)mm

**WEIGHT**
11.4kg

**TEST DATA**
Frequency response at 3.5MHz: -13.8dB (good)
Signal-to-noise ratio: -40.7dB (very good)
Chroma AM/PM: -34.1dB/-37.1dB (below average/below average)
Horizontal sync jitter: 375ns (excellent)

PHILIPS VR1000 | Nicam S-VHS VCR

# SUPER-DUPER DECK

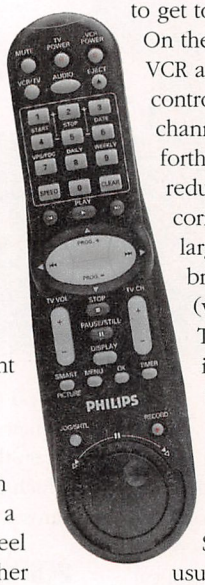
**As digital media take over the world, should we consign analogue products to the great AV dustbin in the sky? Not if Philips' S-VHS VR1000 is anything to go by. Ian Calcutt tells all**

Let's face it, the days of VHS are numbered, but for years to come there will be vast quantities of cassettes in circulation. Even with digital video recording in its various forms, there will still be many occasions when an old-style VHS copy is needed. For example, dubbing camcorder footage or copying the contents of an immovable hard-drive recorder for longer term storage or loan to a friend.

The Philips VR1000 may not be as fancy as JVC's DR10000 D-VHS deck reviewed in the last issue (p20), but this S-VHS machine does offer picture quality noticeably superior to regular VHS, at a fraction of the price that such machines used to cost. JVC led the way with its milestone HR-S7500 in 1998. The VR1000 is much the same deal, but offers Philips' own take on bargain S-VHS.

## DESCRIPTION

The VR1000 shuns the now-common silver/gold look by staying resolutely black – and a very shiny black too, none of this brushed, matt-style finishing. Aside from that blast from the past, everything is decidedly modern.




The Philips experiment with handset design continues with an odd-looking entry, a flat, tapered control with rounded edges. It looks a bit like a replacement heel for a shoe. There's another surprise with the bright red backlights that come on beneath some, but only a few, of the function buttons (and not the ones you'd expect like Play, Stop, etc). Both the remote and front panel carry jog/shuttle dials, though the remote's version is considerably harder to get to grips with.

On the front panel of the VCR are plenty of large, clear controls for Play, Pause, channel up/down and so forth. The digital noise reduction/timebase corrector button is also large and lights up in bright green when on (which is recommended). The LED display includes audio level indicators and S-VHS status. Clock, channel and tape counters cannot be displayed simultaneously.

Sockets include the usual front AV inputs, plus S-video. At the back are two Scarts (AV1 is switchable between S-video and composite), stereo phono outputs and a separate S-video output.

## OPERATION

The VR1000 is NexTView Link-compatible, so if you happen to have a TV with EasyLink, Smartlink, Q-Link, etc, you can download all the preset channels and names into the VCR. Otherwise perform the plug-and-play auto tune procedure, which works successfully, if slowly (about 5min 30 sec!).

To kill time you could always grapple with the verbose instruction manual. Fortunately, the VCR itself is very easy to use and most features can be picked up intuitively by seasoned VCR users.

The detailed onscreen menu provides detailed information for various operations, notably a time-remaining/tape position bar during fast-forwarding or rewinding. Index Search scans for up to nine markers in either direction. DSPC stands for Digital Studio Picture Control and optimises

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## GUIDE PRICE: £320

performance during recording and playback.

Further manual refinements can be made for playback with the digital timebase corrector (to stabilise any jittery recordings), noise reduction and '3R' edge detail correction. Meanwhile, SmartPicture will soften or sharpen an image if necessary. The auto detect for S-VHS can be overridden if you want to record VHS on an S-VHS tape.

One-touch recording can be in 30min increments (up to 6hr), while timer settings allow a maximum of eight programmes up to 12mth ahead. There is no timer clash warning and PDC defaults to off (but can be activated with a one-touch operation on the remote).

SP and LP can be specified for individual timer settings and there is an auto-LP mode for tape shortage emergencies. Daily operation is for Mon-Fri only, though there is also a weekly option.

There is no satellite control of any kind, but if your decoder/set-top box has a timer the VCR can be switched to wake up automatically to record via Scart (for the time being this excludes Sky digital boxes). NexTView Link-compatible TVs can download EPG information for setting the timer on the VR1000.

For editing, the VCR has a remote pause connector to control a slave recorder.

The trick play options available through the jog/shuttle dials are extensive, and the timebase corrector ensures a smooth image. There is a mono or stereo audio dub facility (for the non-hi-fi tracks), but no manual audio level control or insert video edit mode.

### PERFORMANCE

S-VHS performance is the true measure of the VR1000's capabilities and it is superb. The image is full of contrast, colour is realistic with no bad shimmer or breakup and detail is noticeably sharper than regular VHS.

> **"Audio is exemplary"**

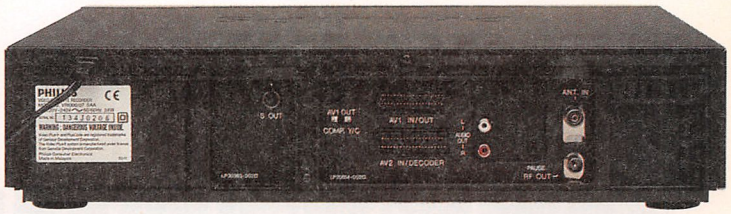
Our test recording of the BBC News caught an interviewee in a chequered jacket, but there was virtually no moire patterning or interference to spoil the picture. Grain is also far lower than on standard VHS. Edge detail is vivid without being overly cutting or distracting. Overall, a natural, pleasing result.

The various noise reduction and timebase correction tricks seem, for a change, worth the money in both VHS and S-VHS modes. For a couple of seconds – before the electronics do their work – you can see a 'before' version of the image (and it truly is worse!). These can be switched off but, again, as the results are better or at least the same, there's little need to do so.

The rock-solid freeze frame is especially impressive. Picture search modes also fare well and don't suffer too much breakup (except in LP). Searching and pausing in LP in either recording standard results in a monochrome image, but otherwise S-VHS LP recordings are aesthetically on a par with standard VHS.

The VR1000's own VHS performance is fair but not spectacular. Compared to the impressive detail in S-VHS mode, anything less is going to look soft which, in direct comparison, it certainly does.

Audio, however, is exemplary. For a good test of dynamic range we recorded a selection of classical music from Sky digital's *Music Choice*. To our ears, the hi-fi recording was crystal clear with no apparent loss of body or distortion in the upper frequencies.



**Standard socketry fayre including S-video out, dual Scart and stereo audio phono outs**

### CONCLUSION

With impressive results available from off-air digital TV and DVD playback, the humble VHS deck is starting to fall behind. While not offering the kind of advantages that the coming digital recording formats will bring, S-VHS offers a noticeable jump in quality, and is ideal for transferring from high-quality sources or as a worthwhile library copy.

The VR1000 is feature-packed, easy to use and, of course, compatible with standard VHS. At around £320 you can't really go wrong ❐

### VERDICT

**Excellent sound and picture performance for an amazingly good price**

## SPECIFICATIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| PICTURE | 9/10 |
| SOUND | 10/10 |
| FEATURES | 9/10 |
| EASE OF USE | 8/10 |
| OVERALL | 9/10 |

**KEY FEATURES**
Twin-speed S-VHS and VHS format
Nicam stereo
Six heads
VideoPlus/PDC
NTSC playback

**WHAT'S GOOD**
Picture; sound; value

**WHAT'S BAD**
No insert editing or manual audio level setting

**FEATURES**
Auto setup; NexTView Link; six heads; twin speed; VHS and S-VHS formats; Nicam stereo; VideoPlus; PDC; 8-event, 1-year timer; auto tape speed timer mode; power save mode; onscreen display; time remaining counter; NTSC playback (in PAL60); repeat play; trick play; jog/shuttle; audio dubbing; index search; SmartPicture; DSPC (Digital Studio Picture Control); digital timebase corrector; digital noise reduction; digital 3R detail enhancement; one-touch recording; auto satellite recording; multi-brand TV control handset

**SOCKETS**
***Front:*** S-video in; composite video in; stereo audio in (phonos)
***Rear:*** S-video out; two Scarts; stereo audio line out (phonos); RF aerial in/out (coaxial); remote pause connector

**DIMENSIONS**
435(w) x 94(h) x 343(d)mm

**WEIGHT**
4.8kg

**CONTACT**
Philips ☎ 020 8665 6350
www.philips.com

**TEST DATA**
S-VHS mode:
Frequency response at 2MHz: 5.2dB (excellent)
at 3MHz: 5.5dB (excellent)
at 3.5MHz: 5.4dB (excellent)
Signal-to-noise ratio: -43.0 (good)
Chroma AM/PM: -50.3dB/-46.9dB (excellent/excellent)
Video jitter: 2ns (excellent)

SAMSUNG CI-533CN | Nicam 21in TV

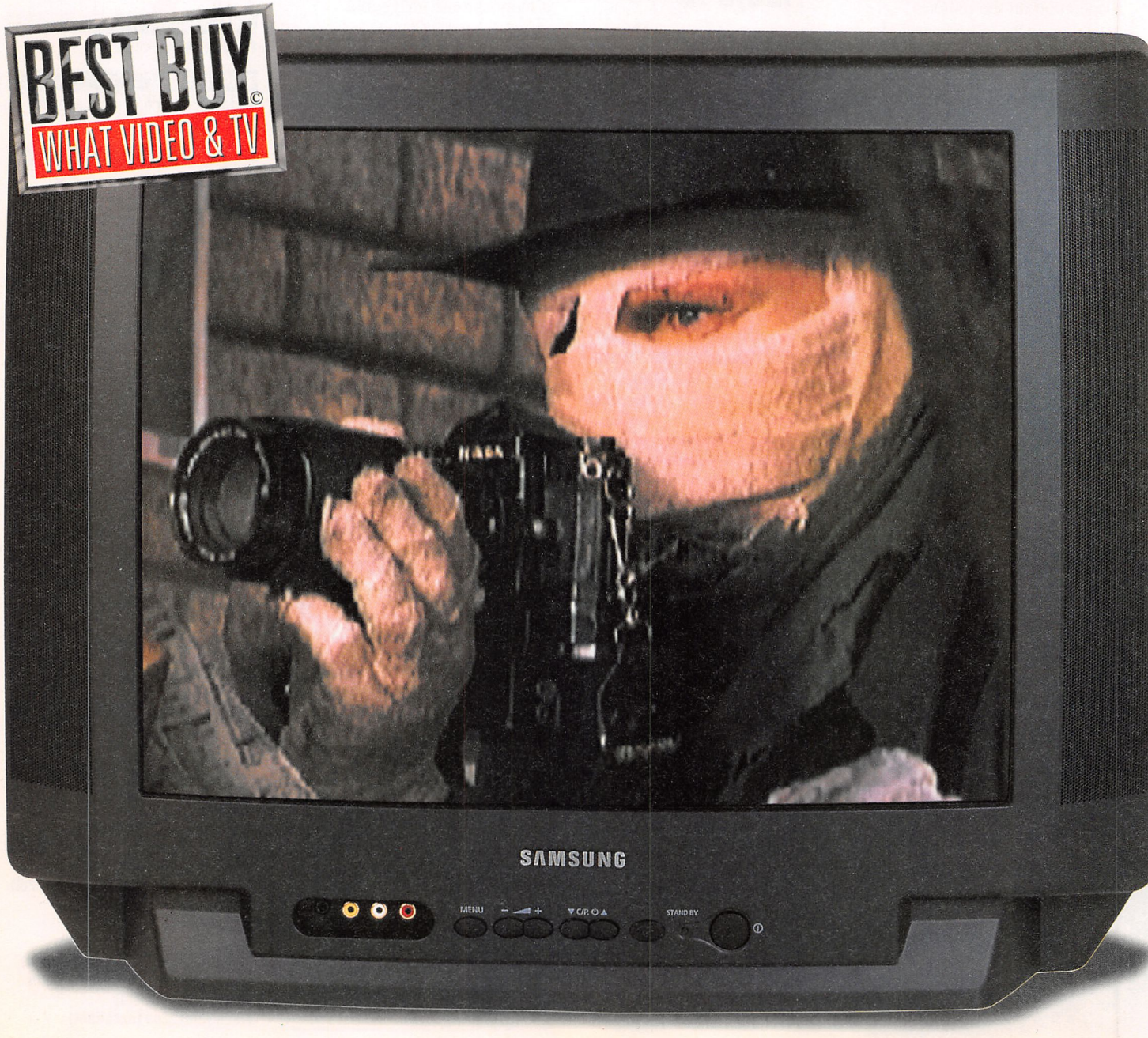
# POUND STRETCHER

**Samsung takes a break from cutting-edge innovation to bring us this 21in TV for an unbelievable £200. John Archer is suitably impressed**

Samsung has been doing everything in its power over the last 12 months to make itself a household name. And while it may still not get mentioned in the same breath as Sony or Panasonic, products like the UK's first sub-£200 DVD player, and, more recently, the first IDTV to offer real Digital Teletext services have raised Samsung's profile to hitherto unexplored heights. And for all the right reasons.

Which paradoxically makes the appearance of this seemingly straightforward TV all the more interesting. A 21in Nicam TV pitched at the astoundingly cheap £200 mark doesn't promise too much fancy innovation.

But it provides an indicator of just how deeply rooted Samsung's apparent surge in form really is. If the company's quality extends into the CI-533CN, there's a good chance that it's extending everywhere.



## GUIDE PRICE: £200

### DESCRIPTION

The set's looks are rather unprepossessing, especially when compared to the stylistic delights of Samsung's aforementioned IDTV. It's a little black box – no more, no less. But then you wouldn't expect much more in the 21in market.

Under a little removable panel beneath the screen live a headphone jack, composite video input and accompanying stereo audio jacks, while the rear panel has little trouble accommodating two Scarts and RF in.

### OPERATION

The features count is as basic as you'd expect for a TV aimed at the less demanding viewer. Auto tuning kicks things off with some aplomb though, finding and ordering the requisite channels quickly and correctly.

Standard features include a sleep timer and teletext with Fastext, but considerably more interesting and unexpected are a noise reduction system and a 16:9 mode for use with anamorphic widescreen material.

The noise reduction works very well, smoothing out any roughness in imperfect pictures without disturbing colours or unduly reducing the sharpness levels. The 16:9 mode is an unusual but welcome find on a set so small. There's even a zoom mode for expanding letterboxed non-anamorphic widescreen pictures to fill more of the screen.

It's also nice to report that Samsung has taken a simple approach to putting what few features the set does have at your disposal. The onscreen menus are intuitive and navigation through them is a cinch, courtesy of a basic but effective remote control design.

The only real pain is that for some reason if you have a DVD player attached to the TV's front inputs, you can't access any of the other AV inputs until you've removed the front connectors! Bizarre.

### PERFORMANCE

Let's cut to the CI-533CN's chase, though: its picture and sound performance. Has Samsung packed in the punch where it counts?

Damn right it has. Pictures are simply superb. Leading the way are some extremely impressive colours. Contrary to what we find on a disappointingly high selection of sub-25in TVs, the contrast level on the 533CN is exemplary.

Blacks actually look black rather than grey, and colours are allowed to emerge purely, without being hindered by any of the 'grey mist' effect which poor-contrast TVs display.

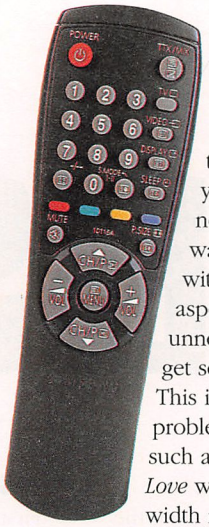
Detail levels also catch the eye, particularly with the noise reduction off. Every last detail of people's faces during broadcast fare is perfectly – sometimes alarmingly! – clear, while the pixel-perfect joys of such pristine DVD discs as *Shakespeare In Love* and *Con Air* are done full justice.

**"Pictures are simply superb"**

There is a price to pay for such impressive levels of detail resolution though, in the form of grain on analogue broadcasts (something that disappears with Sky or ONdigital broadcasts). In fact, were it not for the noise reduction this grain could represent a real problem, but the NR gets rid of it perfectly without seriously adverse side effects.

One adverse effect can be seen though, when you call in the TV's 16:9 mode. As with countless 4:3 ratio sets before it, the CI-533CN commits the cardinal sin of leaving a white line across the screen above the new 16:9-shaped picture.

If you're watching a 1.85:1 ratio anamorphic film or



programme that happens to be really bright all the way through you probably won't notice it, but if you're watching anything with a wider cinematic aspect ratio this wholly unnecessary line can get seriously annoying. This is especially problematic on films such as *Shakespeare in Love* which are filmed to width ratios of 2.35:1, or film with any dark scenes (ie, just about every film there is). Silly, very silly. So bad, in fact, that it almost defeats the object of including the 16:9 mode in the first place.

Sadly, the CI-533CN compounds this problem by adding a little white block in the centre of the otherwise thin white line (it could be that the picture is showing the extra, top part of the image from the DVD player that is normally hidden by a TV's overscan settings). And even worse, it introduces a slight kink at the top of the picture when you're watching NTSC format discs.

But it would be unfair on the CI-533CN to wrap up the pictures on such a negative note. In nearly all departments, and for the vast majority of your viewing, Samsung's little groover is a mighty fine option. It's just that if you're a DVD fan, you'll have to stick to zooming up non-anamorphic widescreen presentations using the TV's zoom mode, which is hardly the best solution.

Pushing the CI-533CN's sonics to the limit with the phenomenal beach landing scene at the start of *Saving Private Ryan* on DVD (and trying to ignore that white 16:9 mode line!), more pleasant surprises were discovered. While there is, understandably, a distinct lack of bass, dialogue and effects manage to remain pretty clear, which stops the soundtrack sounding soupy.

The set also casts an impressively wide soundstage for such a diddy chap. The raging gun battle seems to be going on all around your living room rather than just within the confines of the screen.

### CONCLUSION

Even with a couple of stupid mistakes on Samsung's part (the widescreen mode problems), the CI-533CN is still an astoundingly good performer for just £200. It seems that the Samsung renaissance is far from restricted to its high-falutin' show-off products. Let's hope it keeps up the good work ❐

### VERDICT

**Not recommended for widescreen viewing, otherwise an excellent picture and phenomenal value for money**

## SPECIFICATIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| PICTURE | 9/10 |
| SOUND | 8/10 |
| FEATURES | 6/10 |
| EASE OF USE | 9/10 |
| OVERALL | 9/10 |

**KEY FEATURES**
Nicam stereo
NTSC-capable
Fastext
16:9 mode

**WHAT'S GOOD**
Picture and sound quality; price

**WHAT'S BAD**
No 4-pin S-video input; some distressing picture glitches in the widescreen mode

**FEATURES**
Fastext; NTSC-capable; sleep timer; auto tuning; noise reduction

**SOCKETS**
***Front:*** composite video/stereo audio in; headphone jack
***Rear:*** two Scarts; RF in

**DIMENSIONS**
578(w) x 465(h) x 475(d)mm

**WEIGHT**
19kg

**TEST DATA**
Colour separation: good. Minimal bleed, a little edge tizzing
Geometry: good. Minimal bowing
Colour convergence: excellent. Just a little red bleed at the absolute extremities
Frequency response: very good, with detail just about reproduced through to an unbeatable 5.8MHz

# CHEAP AND CHEERLESS

**A 32in widescreen TV for just £500! Blimey. Paul Saunders takes a look at the impossibly cheap Goodmans W32INS**

Goodmans, the brand of choice for parents and students looking for cheap portable TVs and VCRs, is branching out with the release of its first ever 32in widescreen TV, the W32INS.

This seems like a strange move for a company best known for its low-budget, reasonable quality AV kit, demonstrating a clear attempt at moving into cinephile territory. In keeping with the brand's usual maxim, the proviso with this particular 32in set is that the price severely undercuts many of the more established manufacturers.

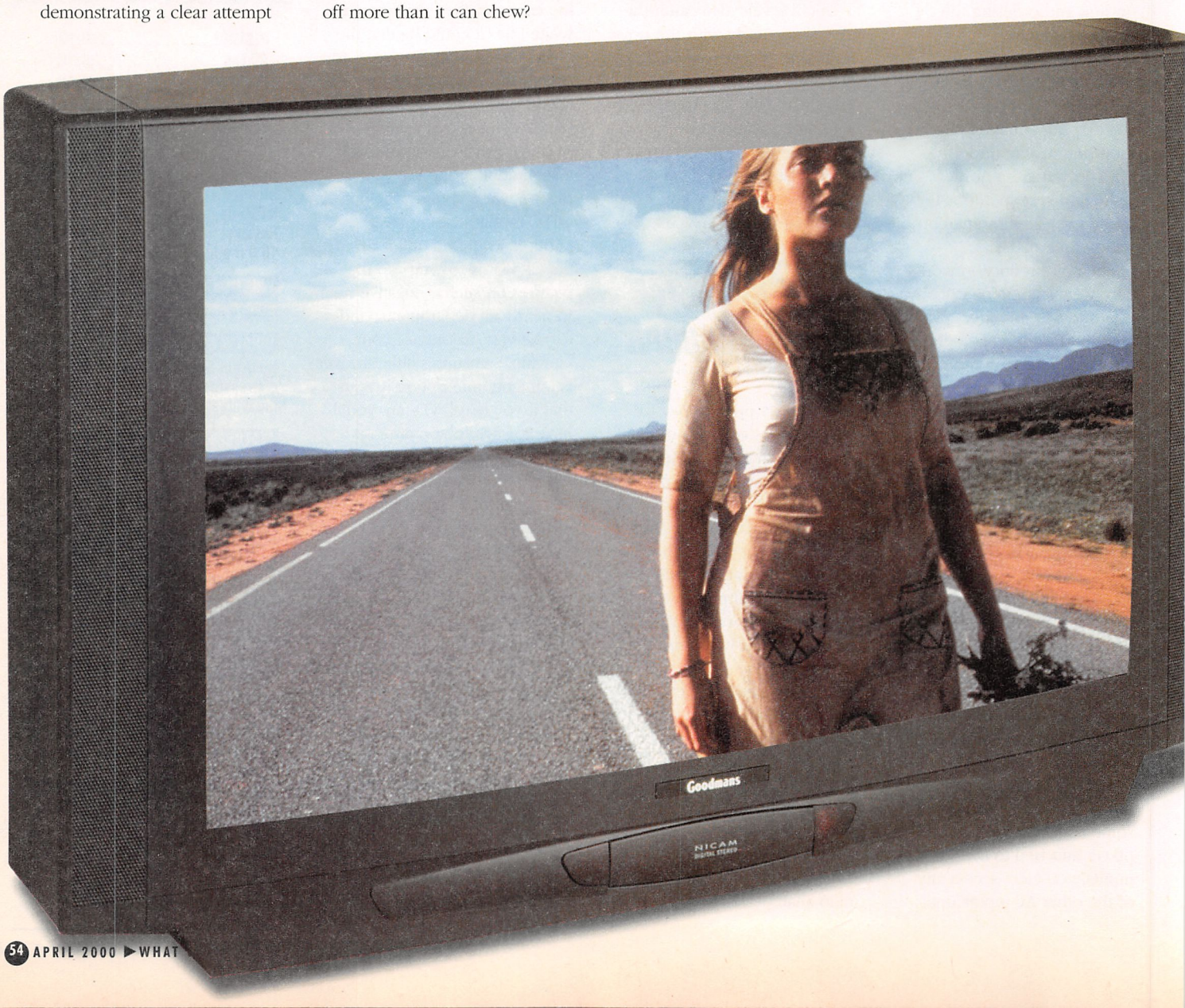
So has Goodmans created a perfect entry point for newcomers to the world of widescreen TV, or has it bitten off more than it can chew?

## DESCRIPTION

First impressions certainly aren't favourable. In terms of sheer aesthetics the W32INS is, well, boxy seems to be the most polite way to describe it. Lacking anything even approaching style or grace, the set is little more than a slightly cheap-looking, black oblong. Even at this early stage it's easy to see where the cost-cutting has occurred.

Things do improve somewhat in socketry terms. You'll find two Scarts (one S-video, and one RGB), a composite video in, an RF in, stereo audio in and a headphone jack.

It may not be the most impressive line-up of sockets



## GUIDE PRICE: £500

ever, but at least it includes most essential connections.

### OPERATION

We at *What Video & TV* like to believe that nothing is beyond our technological capabilities. However, this idea was formed long before the introduction of auto tuning systems. Auto tuning should be a godsend, freeing us from onerous manual labour.

Occasionally though, actually getting the auto tuning to work is more effort than manual tuning ever was. The Goodmans W32INS is a prime offender in this category. Despite a Crystal Mark from the Plain English Campaign for its instruction booklet, it took three return visits to the auto tuning section before we conquered this 'user-friendly' process.

Add a DVD player to the equation and things get even worse. The list of the W32INS's crimes which regular DVD users will encounter is impossible to deal with fully in this review, so here are the biggest problems.

The first major flaw concerns the way in which the set deals with aspect ratios. Annoyingly, the W32INS only offers a choice between 4:3 and 16:9 modes. To properly appreciate the original aspect ratios of non-anamorphic TV broadcasts without stretching them beyond all recognition or cramming them into a 4:3 frame, you must use the Zoom button on the remote. This is located a finger-straining distance from the '?/DSC' button.

By combining these two functions together, you can zoom in on 4:3 letterbox presentations so the image almost fills the screen, or blow up a standard 4:3 image so it fills the 16:9 frame width-wise, but loses picture information from the top and bottom of the frame. With a problem as potentially complex as this for a first-time buyer, the placement and abstract labelling of certain buttons simply makes things all the more difficult.

The second major flaw concerns NTSC playback. Without wanting to advocate the purchasing of Region 1 DVDs, it is incredibly likely that anybody with a player will be making their way into this market, so a television that supports NTSC is a must.

If you thought setting up the aspect ratio was complex, you haven't seen anything yet. By cycling through the AV settings you eventually come to AV4 which, according to the manual, is the input designed for NTSC support. AV4 is actually set up to support NTSC 4.43MHz playback. This is the compromised signal used by US video recorders, not the NTSC 3.58MHz signal utilised by many DVDs.

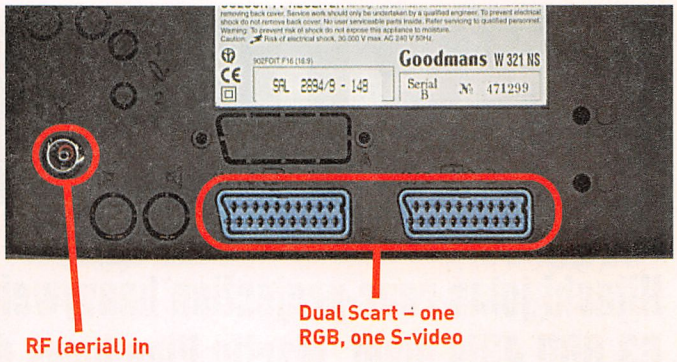
**"Sound is tinny and totally lacking in range"**

It is possible to get support for the 3.58MHz signal on other AV channels, but the quality isn't sufficient to justify their use. Suffice to say if you were looking for a TV to use for NTSC DVD playback, the W32INS isn't the model you're looking for.

### PERFORMANCE

Once set up, things do start to improve somewhat. On broadcast material, the picture quality is pleasing enough, with a rich colour palette and surprisingly little tizz and edge softness beyond those expected when dealing with sharp colour edges.

Once you start playing with the aspect ratios things take a drastic turn for the worse. While it's generally accepted that images will lose resolution if they are zoomed in on (a function you would have to make use of if watching a non-anamorphic/4:3 letterbox image), the resulting picture on this particular set seems considerably worse than others we've looked at, and certainly impairs viewing. Screen geometry doesn't help matters either, as the amount of bend into each corner of the set is both noticeable and intrusive. The nail in the coffin of this set's visual performance is a nasty case of harmonic smearing. In layman's terms, this means unpleasant strips of white or dark residual image stretching out from bright parts of an image. For example, a silver moon against a black sky will cause light streaks across the dark background. The sound quality is, if possible, even more lacklustre than the picture, being tinny and totally lacking in range. All in all, a rather underwhelming viewing experience.




### CONCLUSION

It wouldn't be fair to call the W32INS the worst widescreen TV we've ever seen, but then nor would it be fair to recommend it to anybody. Even taking the retail price into account, the picture quality, controls and sound performance mean this shouldn't be considered by a first-time buyer, let alone a real technophile.

It may be half the price of many other 32in sets out there, but it only has half their performance quality. Do yourself a favour and keep saving up for one of those real 32in wonders ❐

### VERDICT

**Reasonable picture quality is let down by dismal sound and an unwieldy operating system**

## SPECIFICATIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| PICTURE | 6/10 |
| SOUND | 6/10 |
| FEATURES | 7/10 |
| EASE OF USE | 5/10 |
| OVERALL | 5/10 |

**KEY FEATURES**
Auto tuning
Nicam stereo
NTSC playback

**WHAT'S GOOD**
Price; reasonable picture quality

**WHAT'S BAD**
Horribly convoluted controls; unimpressive audio performance; confusing NTSC set up

**FEATURES**
Auto tuning; two Scart sockets (one RGB, one S-video); composite video/stereo audio inputs; hue control; 4:3, widescreen, and Zoom mode for picture; NTSC playback; 2 x 6W RMS output; sleep timer

**SOCKETS**
***Front:*** composite AV in (phonos); headphone (mini-jack)
***Rear:*** two Scarts (one RGB, one S-video); RF aerial in; stereo audio in

**DIMENSIONS**
870(w) x 540(h) x 550(d)mm

**WEIGHT**
48kg

**CONTACT**
Goodmans ☎ 023 9239 1000

**TEST DATA**
Colour separation: good, with some bleed, edge softness and tizz, but nothing that will upset your viewing
Geometry: below average, the set bends out to each corner
Frequency response: clear to 5.8MHz

HITACHI ILLUMINA C43WP910TN 43in DD/DTS widescreen rear-projection TV

# MISTER BIG

## Hitachi joins rear-projection heavyweights Sony, Philips and Toshiba with this £3,000 43in giant. Martin Pipe bows down at its altar

Although this is Hitachi's first UK rear-projector, the company has been selling them in other countries for years. Indeed, it claims to have 30 per cent of the $2,000-plus market in the US, where this type of set is king. As a company trying to break into uncharted UK territory, Hitachi has realised that its first such product needs to be a little bit different from what's already out there.

To this end, we have some notable firsts. To start with, the C43WP910TN – Illumina to its friends – is the first UK set (they'll be assembled in Wales, apparently) to include DTS decoding, as well as Dolby Digital. Region 1 DVD enthusiasts rejoice!

It's also the first rear-projection set we've seen with Auto Convergence. We'll discuss the importance of this shortly. Finally, the Illumina is the first TV of its class to feature progressive scanning, which eliminates the notorious horizontal scan lines and hence gives pictures a more filmic appearance.

High-end stuff indeed – here's a TV that any home cinema enthusiast would love to have in their front room. Provided, of course, that they've got a thick wad of cash.

### DESCRIPTION

It may be a 43in TV, but it's quite compact, so there are few rooms, even in the UK, that couldn't accommodate it. We even managed to squeeze it into a bedroom.

Under the screen is the console, which contains the three projection tubes. It also has removable grilles on either side, which hide the stereo speakers. These employ drive units of surprisingly good quality. Between the grilles is a smaller speaker, which conveys the centre channel during surround sound operation.

> **"The Illumina is up there with the best"**

Above this is a flap, which hides basic operating controls, a headphone jack and a set of AV inputs (stereo audio, composite and S-video). Also buried in the console are no fewer than two subwoofers, each powered by a 15W RMS amplifier. It's good to see that Hitachi is taking its sonics seriously. Back-panel connectivity reinforces this positive idea.

There are spring-clip terminals for front as well as rear speakers. In other words, you can plug in external speakers to improve front/stereo separation. Indeed, Hitachi plans to offer an optional set of Mission speakers. This package, details of which are not yet finalised, contains two fronts, two rears and a meatier sub.

You do get a pair of rear speakers with the Illumina, but they look rather cheap and nasty compared to the TV itself. Those spring clips don't include among their number a centre-channel speaker output, and – on the face of it – you're stuck with the internal one.

Not necessarily so, though. The back panel has a phono socket that presents the surround decoder's line-level centre channel to the outside world. Oh yes, and you get the rear, front and sub output as well! Hitachi is to be commended on providing these 5.1 low-level outputs, because they represent upgrade nirvana.

Many current AV amps, even the cheaper models, now feature 5.1 direct inputs for decoders and DVD players. If you buy one of these – plus a set of home cinema speakers – at a later date, you'll be able to hook up the Illumina. Also around the back are coaxial and optical digital inputs for DVD players.

There are no less than three Scart sockets. The first supports RGB input, while the second and third will handle S-video. It's a pity that only one handles RGB, because you won't be able to get the best from your digital set-top box and DVD player unless cables are swapped around.

On which subject, the Illumina only has an analogue tuner. Some of the 'glow-in-the-dark' remote handset's buttons are labelled with various digital TV options (STB, Digital and Guide, for example). Hopefully, Hitachi will soon produce an IDTV version. Will there be an internal upgrade module for this model? Even Hitachi doesn't know the answer to that yet!

### OPERATION

Plug it in, and the Illumina seeks out the strongest analogue channels and stores them in the correct order. It's now time to set up some of the more advanced features. If the picture looks a little off-colour, open the flap and press the Magic Focus button. This initiates the Auto Convergence process, which takes a minute or so and is quite impressive to watch.

Convergence adjustment is critically important with rear-projection sets, and indeed any display where colour pictures are produced by combining three (red, green and blue) separate cathode tubes. The three separate pictures must correspond precisely with each other, or you'll experience colour fringing caused by convergence errors.

The adjustment used to be carried out manually during installation. The first projection TVs had banks of preset controls that required the attention of an experienced video technician. Next came onscreen cross-hair displays, which could be adjusted by customers.

Now, the TV does the work for you. The Illumina's screen is split into several sections, each of which is served by a sensor mounted at the edge of the screen. These sensors detect convergence errors and tell an onboard computer to make compensatory adjustments.

There is a job that you will need to do yourself, but only if there's a DVD player connected. The Illumina needs to be told which Scart the device is connected to, so that the decoder can associate the ➤

GUIDE PRICE: £3,000

# HITACHI ILLUMINA C43WP910TN 43in DD/DTS widescreen rear-projection TV

digital input with it. Unlike a recently tested Philips widescreen set, the digital input can be associated with any AV input.

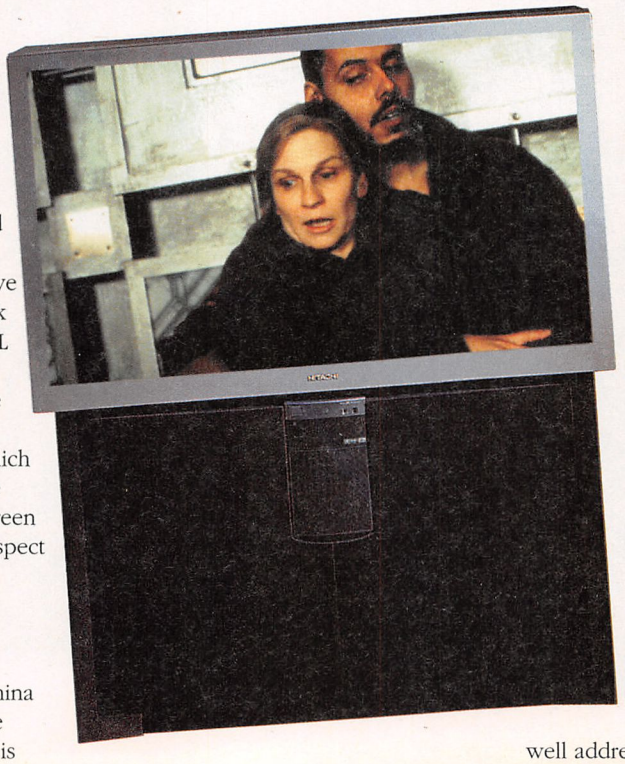
Still on the subject of Scarts, there's no Q-Link functionality. This is odd for a TV that is so high tech in other areas. Hopefully the next sets will address this issue, which can make VCR setup, recording and timer setting that much easier.

The Scarts will, however, accept multi-standard video signals – the Illumina is compatible with NTSC, PAL and Secam standards. There would be little point in including DTS otherwise!

Surround sound settings, we're pleased to say, are perfectly straightforward. The various options, such as channel levels, speaker sizes and so on, are all displayed graphically – there's even a user-friendly graphical representation of a living room!

Talking of graphics, the Illumina has a five-band graphic equaliser for tonal adjustment. Although it doesn't have the superb teletext sub-page menus of some sets (notably Philips models), the Illumina does include a 'dual teletext' mode. Here, two pages can be displayed side-by-side.

You can also swap between 50Hz progressive scan or a 100Hz standard interlaced format from the handset. Progressive scan will also work with NTSC and PAL 60 signals from a DVD player. There are also several display modes, which allow you to make the most of the screen according to the aspect ratio of the image you're watching.



## PERFORMANCE

Sonically, the Illumina is outstanding. The subwoofer system is remarkably tuneful for a TV, and adds authority to music and movie soundtracks alike. Voices sound natural, so there is little mid-range colouration – normally a defect of TV sound systems. There's also a fair amount of sonic detail, through the front and centre speakers.

Dolby Pro-Logic, derived from a VCR source, is capable of fair results. Indeed, you get an enjoyable and fast-paced sound, with a decent soundstage conveyed across the system's four channels.

Good though analogue surround is, it pales into insignificance compared to Dolby Digital. Powerful action movies like *The Matrix* (R2 DVD), rivet you to your seat. Punch, dynamics and depth – simply put, you're placed right there in the thick of it.

Although the rears sound better than they look, they're a good place to start upgrading. To be quite honest, Dolby Digital deserves better. A rare DTS R2 DVD (imported from Germany) demonstrated a similar sonic character.

Brickbats? There was a slight background buzz on the review set, but you'd be hard-pressed to hear it in most lounges.

So what about the picture? Progressive scan works by filling in the spaces between lines that make up the picture, using a process known as interpolation. In this mode, where the refresh rate is 50Hz, flicker is hardly visible because the display is non-interlaced. Note that the resolution doesn't change, and although the picture does take on a cinematic appearance, it's limited by video's resolution.

Indeed, progressive scan does work very well, particularly with broadcast signals and DVD sources. There are few obvious artefacts, even with critical viewing material, which is amazing considering all the digital processing that's involved. That said, vertically scrolling captions are rather jerky.

What's more, Hitachi says that the feature might not work as well with poor-quality recordings. With these, you would instead switch to 100Hz scanning, which doubles the picture refresh rate to kill flicker.

Both scan modes produce an exceptionally well-defined picture, with vivid and detailed character. Convergence errors are minimal, too. Simply put, the Illumina is up there with the best.

## CONCLUSION

Hitachi has taken a gamble, and it has paid off, big-time. Picture and sound are exemplary, and some of the features point the way forward. There are some surprising omissions, though. The absence of a Q-Link for VCRs is particularly odd. And seeing as the Illumina is a flagship model, why no integrated digital terrestrial receiver? Future models may well address these issues, but even now this is one of the best rear-projectors currently available in the UK ❐

## VERDICT

**With its awe-inspiring sound and picture, the Illumina should be a candidate on every top-end TV purchaser's shopping list**

## SPECIFICATIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| PICTURE | 10/10 |
| SOUND | 9/10 |
| FEATURES | 9/10 |
| EASE OF USE | 9/10 |
| OVERALL | 9/10 |

**KEY FEATURES**
Dolby Digital/DTS
Progressive scan
43in 16:9 screen

**WHAT'S GOOD**
Picture; sound; features; connectivity

**WHAT'S BAD**
No Q-Link functionality

**FEATURES**
43in visible 16:9 screen; progressive scan or 100Hz refresh; display mode storable for each AV input; Magic Focus auto convergence; Dolby Digital, Pro-Logic, DTS, MPEG multichannel decoder; switchable dynamic range compression; Nicam stereo; PAL/Secam/NTSC 3.58 & 4.43 multi-standard; 16:9, 4:3, 14:9, letterbox-expand picture modes with WSS and auto detect; noise reduction; switchable comb filter/velocity modulation/CTI/black stretch picture enhancements; freeze; dual-page Fastext; auto install; child lock; sleep timer; combined RMS power output: 105W

**SOCKETS**
***Front:*** composite/S-video/stereo audio; headphones
***Rear:*** three Scarts (RGB/composite/S-video); front/rear/centre/sub phono outputs; rear/external front speakers; coaxial/optical digital input; aerial input

**DIMENSIONS**
1,025(w) x 1,220(h) x 460(d)mm

**CONTACT**
Hitachi ☎ 01628 643000
www.hitachi.consumer.eu.com

**TEST DATA**
Colour: stable, with little bleed
Geometry: excellent, with little distortion
Frequency response: clear to 5.8MHz

# WIN

# DENON

# A £450 Denon AVR-1800 receiver!

## Plus Storex DVD/VHS racks

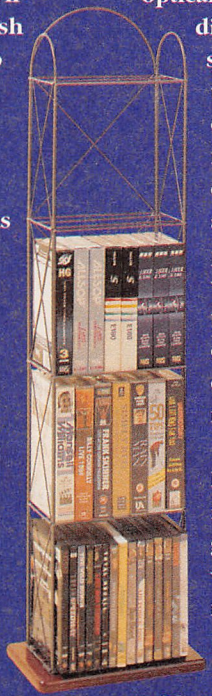
No home cinema setup is complete without a surround sound receiver, and there are few finer receivers around than the Denon AVR-1800. In fact, we at *What Video & TV* are so impressed with the AVR-1800 that we've persuaded Denon to offer one as a prize in this month's competition.

Of course, as you build your home cinema collection you'll want somewhere stylish to store your discs. No problem. We've also got a Storex STX-701 DVD/VHS rack worth £30 to give away with the receiver, plus racks to give to three runners-up!

The AVR-1800 is a well specified, solidly built home cinema receiver at a cracking price. It's equipped to handle all of today's home cinema sound formats, and is future protected, with six-channel inputs ensuring an easy upgrade if a new system comes along.

Features include Dolby Pro-Logic/Dolby Digital/DTS decoding, 5 x 75W amplification, cinema equaliser, dynamic range compression, DSP effects and an RDS tuner. On the connectivity front, the unit sports eight stereo phono inputs, five composite video inputs, two optical digital inputs, coaxial digital input, three stereo phono outputs, three composite video outputs, plus pre-outs for front left and right, centre and sub. All in all a comprehensive package, which comes with a performance to match. Check out our review on p74 of this issue for the full story.

STOREX



Storex's STX701 DVD and VHS tower is made in stylish gun-metal grey wire with a mahogany-finish base. It holds either 60 DVDs, 40 blank VHS cassettes or 35 prerecorded VHS cassettes (or a combination thereof). Measuring 1,000(h) x 280(w) x 175(d)mm, it sells for £30 but can be yours for free if you simply enter this competition.

To enter, just answer the question below and with luck you could soon be enjoying this excellent Dolby Digital receiver and storage rack, or be one of the three lucky runners-up who'll receive an STX701 storage rack ❐

Contact Denon on ☎ 01234 741200
Storex on ☎ 01494 445070

## THE QUESTION

**The Denon AVR-1800 sports a DTS decoder. What does DTS stand for?**

**A: Digital Test Services**
**B: Digital Theatre Systems**
**C: Down The Swanee**

## RULES OF ENTRY

1. The editor's decision is final
2. There are no cash substitutes
3. Employees of WV Publications, Denon and Storex are not eligible to enter
4. Photocopies of the entry form are acceptable
5. Only one entry per household please
6. Closing date April 5 1999
7. No purchase necessary. Entry forms can be collected from WV Publications, 57-59 Rochester Place, London NW1 9JU

Please note: entries must be addressed 'Denon AVR-1800 competition' to qualify

**CLOSING DATE: APRIL 5**

***What Video & TV***
**Denon AVR-1800 Amp Competition**

**To enter, all you have to do is:**

1. Tick the box which is the correct answer to the following question
2. Complete the other questions which tell us a bit more about you
3. Fill in your name and address
4. Post the coupon to 'Denon AVR-1800 comp', *What Video & TV*, WV Publications, 57-59 Rochester Place, London NW1 9JU

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐

Please tick any of these that you own

- Home computer ☐
- Cable/satellite ☐
- CD/video ☐
- Credit card ☐

Please tick your age group

- under 35 ☐
- 35-50 ☐
- 51-60 ☐
- 60+ ☐

Please tick the occupation that is closest to yours

- Office/Clerical/Trade ☐
- Professional/Management ☐
- Student ☐
- Retired ☐

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Tel no.....

We do make our mailing list available to other selected organisations whose products or services may be of interest to you. If you prefer not to be included in such mailings please write 'No third party mail' on the entry form

# FIVE-STAR PERFORMER

**If one disc at a time just isn't enough, you can load up the £1,000 DVM-3700's five-disc tray, sit back and relax. David Smith does just that**

Last year Denon shocked the UK DVD market with its DVD-5000. This was a gorgeous dream machine with the best audio quality yet heard from a DVD player in this country, but the price was a much less appealing £1,500.

Now Denon is back with another unusual deck. The DVM-3700 may not boast the impeccable dress sense of its predecessor, but it sports much of the same audio circuitry and has a five-disc tray for you to play with.

The similarity also extends to the price. While it is cheaper than the DVD-5000, it still packs a hefty punch at £1,000 – and this in an age when prices elsewhere seem to be racing headlong to absolute zero.

Five discs, though? Who really needs to load up five DVDs at the same time? Well nobody needs to, of course, but it may prove handy for movie marathons.

Where this feature comes into its own is with CDs. It makes the DVM-3700 the ideal beast to keep your party going until the wee hours, or to simply provide endless background music while you get on with your life.

But Denon doesn't really know how this machine will be received – it's a toe-in-the-water product. What can't be argued with is that the extra room needed for the five-disc tray adds considerable bulk to the DVM-3700, making it look like a laser disc player.

Whether this aesthetic compromise is too much for today's style-conscious consumer to accept is yet to be seen.

## DESCRIPTION

Okay, this may not be a slim, sleek, silver deck, but it's still nicely laid-out and far from ugly. The disc tray is much bigger than usual and the LED display sits atop it. To each side are small, well laid-out control buttons. It's a reserved design and the added size does add presence – this is a DVD player with gravitas.

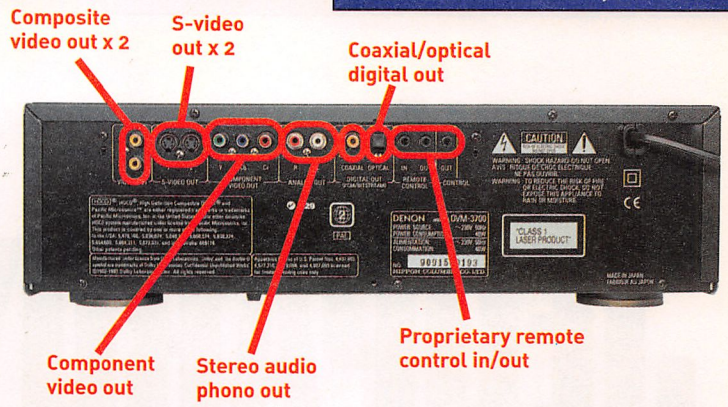
> *"Audio performance is excellent"*

The logos on the front hint at the machine's seriousness. Dolby Digital and DTS logos assure you that the DVM-3700 can handle whatever you throw at it in the way of movie soundtracks, while HDCD and AL24 back up the machine's audiophile aspirations.

HDCD (High Definition Compatible Digital) is a means of reducing distortion on CDs, and discs pressed in this format will happily play back in the DVM-3700. AL24 is an improvement on the standard ALPHA processing by which the digital audio signal on a disc is transformed into an analogue signal for your sound system.

To the rear is an impressive collection of socketry. A pair of S-video sockets are joined by two composite video outputs and component video sockets. This is a real boon for projector owners, as they

## GUIDE PRICE: £1,000



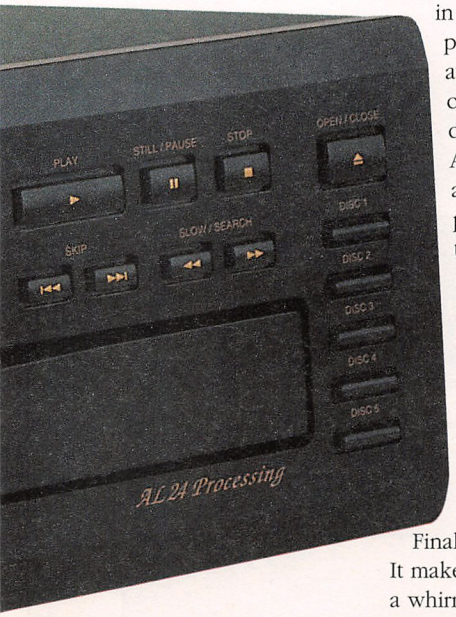

benefit greatly from a component video signal.

Audio outputs stretch to optical and coaxial digital outputs and stereo phono outputs. A notable omission from the Denon's spec sheet is the ability to play CD-R and CD-RW discs. This sits rather uncomfortably with the deck's audio emphasis and will disappoint those who like to make their own CD compilations.

### OPERATION

The DVM-3700 should be easy to use, with its straightforward onscreen menu system and standard DVD functions, but is hindered by the remote. It sports a mass of fiddly buttons with tiny writing. You have to squint to read the legends even in decent light, and with the lights dimmed to watch a film it's impossible. There is no backlighting to help compensate either.

This aside, setup is a simple matter of working through the usual options. There are settings for disc language, rating, menu language, onscreen displays and TV aspect ratio. You can also select what sort of audio output your amplifier requires and choose the colour of the onscreen display.




Still mode can be switched between field or frame, which will help you eliminate picture judder on freeze frame. Dynamic Range Compression is intended to make it easier to watch a film at lower volume levels, taking the edge of the big crashes and bangs while leaving speech audible. This is worth bearing in mind if you have sensitive neighbours.

Finally, NTSC output (for NTSC Region 2 discs) can be set to NTSC or PAL60, depending on the capabilities of your TV. With these settings taken care of, it's time to look at the playback options.

Picture search is available at five speeds, both forwards and backwards. Audio is available at the lowest forward-search speed, but is fairly disjointed, making it of dubious value.

Similarly, slo-mo playback comes at five different speeds, both forwards and backwards, and you can freeze the image and step forward one frame at a time for analysing intricate special effects.

A marker can be set to allow you to return to the same point in the future and repeat and programmed play are both available, although you can't program-play the chapters on a DVD.

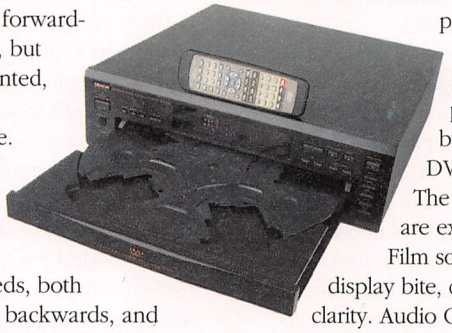
A-B repeat lets you specify a sequence for repeated playback, and at any time you can pull up an onscreen display that gives you all the information about the disc you are watching, including title and chapter number, elapsed time, soundtrack, audio attributes and viewing angle.

Finally, the disc tray itself. It makes a bit of a clunk and a whirr when sliding in and out, but a really nifty feature is that playback of a disc can continue while you eject or replace other discs in the tray. Neat.

### PERFORMANCE

The DVM-3700's picture performance is very impressive, with excellent detail and colour rendition. Trick play functions work smoothly and faultlessly.

Importantly, the Denon handled a Region 2 pressing of *The Matrix* with ease. This complex disc, loaded with DVD-ROM features, causes problems with some players but not the DVM-3700.



The sonics are excellent. Film soundtracks display bite, depth and clarity. Audio CDs are also exceptionally well handled. This deck really has inherited much of the DVD-5000's quality in this department.

It was equally comfortable with both classical pieces and hard-driving dance tracks. This deck can happily sit as the centrepiece of a home entertainment system.

### CONCLUSION

The DVM-3700 is an excellent deck that will nevertheless struggle with its £1,000 price tag. Those with audiophile needs and deep pockets would probably opt for the more expensive – but much more attractive – DVD-5000.

Nevertheless, the DVM-3700 backs up its price with performance excellence, but we think the five-disc tray (with its corresponding increase in bulk) will turn off as many potential customers as it attracts.

Nevertheless, Denon has once more produced a deck that will stimulate some lively debate, and that can't be bad! ❐

### VERDICT

**An audiophile's dream, but bulky looks may not be to everyone's taste**

## SPECIFICATIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| PICTURE | 9/10 |
| SOUND | 9/10 |
| FEATURES | 9/10 |
| EASE OF USE | 8/10 |
| OVERALL | 9/10 |

**KEY FEATURES**
Dolby Digital/DTS output
Component video outputs
Five-disc tray

**WHAT'S GOOD**
Audio; component video outputs

**WHAT'S BAD**
Multi-disc tray adds bulk

**FEATURES**
DVD/VCD (with PBC)/CD/HDCD playback; Dolby Digital/DTS output; five-disc tray; AL24 processing; aspect ratio selection; multi-angle; NTSC/PAL playback; slow motion; repeat play; onscreen menu; parental lock

**SOCKETS**
***Rear:*** two S-video outputs; component video outputs; two composite video outputs; stereo phono outputs; optical digital output; coaxial digital output

**DIMENSIONS**
434(w) x 131(h) x 415(d)mm

**CONTACT**
Denon ☎ 01234 741200
www.denon.co.jp

**TEST DATA**
Video jitter: 4ns (very good)
Frequency response (S-video) at 5.8MHz: -10.42dB (average)
composite video at 5.8MHz: -10.50dB (very good)
Signal-to-noise ratio: -66.5dB (average)
Chroma crosstalk: -47.8dB (below average)
Chroma AM/PM: -69.9dB/-69.1dB (excellent/excellent)
Digital deviation: 264.7 ps (good)

# DOUBLE JEOPARDY

**There are more cheap Chinese DVD players than take-aways in Britain now... well, almost. David Smith has a gander at two multi-region players from Shinco, the latest pretender to the DVD crown**

Multi-region DVD players have an obvious appeal. They allow you to enjoy DVDs from anywhere in the world, whatever their region. No longer will you have to look gloomily at racks of DVD software in foreign countries, wishing your player could handle them – with a multi-region player the world is your shopping mall.

China-based manufacturer Shinco (a big hitter in the Video CD market) is offering a pair of multi-region decks in the form of the DVD-360 and DVD-380. But don't expect an agonising decision about which deck to buy. Rather strangely, they are absolutely identical except for their styling. For once then, you really can just pick the deck that looks best!

These machines are also notable for their three-disc trays. This feature is most likely to come into its own with CD software, enabling you to load up three discs for a party, although serious couch potatoes may slap in the *Alien* trilogy on DVD and not move for six hours.

Let's see what else they have up their sleeves...

## DESCRIPTION

The first thing you notice about the DVD-360 and DVD-380 is the enlarged DVD tray. It will take many back to the days of laser disc, and is necessary to enable loading of three discs at the same time. Other than this the front fascias are notable for their clutter of buttons. In addition to play controls, Shinco has taken the unwise decision to put numerical keys on the front panel as well.

The DVD-360 offers keys numbered 1 to 10 (as well as 10+), while the DVD-380 only covers 1 to 5 (along with a 5+ key). This seems arbitrary, as if Shinco was just trying to find ways to make the decks look different, and a numerical keypad that doesn't simply run from 0 to 9 looks bizarre. Other Shinco models are far more aesthetically pleasing, so exactly what went wrong with these ungainly decks is a mystery.

Both decks sport twin microphone sockets for karaoke use. Chances are these sockets will not see much action over here. More welcome are the DTS and Dolby Digital logos. With a multi-region player the DTS output really is a boon, allowing you to enjoy Region 1 DTS discs, provided you have a suitable amp (there are no onboard decoders).

Note also that the new MP3 format is supported, useful for those on the cutting edge of audio technology. To the rear the socketry is fairly comprehensive. There is an S-video socket, a pair of composite video outputs and two stereo phono outputs. Digital output comes in both coaxial and optical versions but there is neither a Scart nor a component output option.

## GUIDE PRICE: £280

### OPERATION

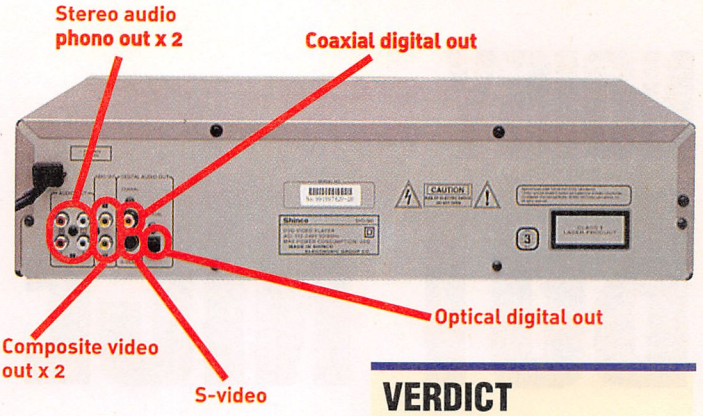
The little logo at the back claims that the DVD-360 is Region 3, but it happily plays Region 1 and 2 software straight out of the box and there is no problem when loading the disc tray up with a mixture of regions – the deck switches smoothly between regions with no hitches.

The setup procedure is fairly standard, but it is made more difficult by an awkward remote control with a poor layout of buttons. Still, the options for choosing aspect ratio (4:3 pan-and-scan, 4:3 letterbox or 16:9), TV type (PAL, NTSC or Auto) and onscreen display language (English or Chinese) are comfortingly familiar.

You get the usual picture search (2x, 4x, 6x and 8x forwards and reverse), freeze frame and slow-motion playback (½x, ¼x and ⅛x, forwards only).

There is also A-B repeat (which allows you to select a specific sequence in the disc to play back repeatedly), shuffle play (which will randomly play DVD chapters or CD tracks) and the option to choose a title or chapter to play ad infinitum.

Zoom blows up the picture to let you scrutinise detail. Be warned that this highlights picture flaws, though. You can choose between 2x and 4x zoom and you can continue playback while zoomed in.




**"Both decks have awful flashing lights and ugly looks"**

The Preferences sub-menu then offers a range of options. Audio and subtitle language preferences can be set, as can the parental lock feature, which allows you to stop the kids watching unsuitable discs. The country/area can be set, but as these decks play all discs no matter which country is selected, this option is superfluous.

After getting through this basic setup stage, you can explore the playback options.

Completing the feature count is a screen saver, which can be switched off, a Remain function, which tells you how much of a chapter or title is left and Digest, which rather niftily scans the beginning of each chapter and displays a still image.

Both Shincos are, however, unable to play CD-R discs. This isn't a huge loss, but it will disappoint those who like to burn their own CDs.

### PERFORMANCE

The first thing you notice is that the three buttons which switch discs inside the machine are lit in a bright green that can't be switched off. Worse still, the button that corresponds to the disc which is playing actually flashes on and off during playback. This is a horrible distraction and seems designed to pull your eyes away from the TV screen.

Picture quality is satisfactory with both Region 1 and 2 software.

Colours on the *South Park* movie (Region 1) were a touch muted but detail was plentiful. A Region 2 pressing of *The Matrix*, however, caused problems. It would play, but playback occasionally froze for a split second. Also, the opening menu sequence was a problem, with the Shinco playing it through twice before allowing you to select play. Even worse, the DVD-360 actually froze totally a couple of times when loading *The Matrix* and had to be switched off.

Sound playback is average. Although sounds are steered accurately, there's not as much impact from the sonics as you would expect from the format.

### CONCLUSION

The inability to confidently handle *The Matrix* is a big problem – there's little point in owning a DVD player which can't cope with the latest discs.

Other minor gripes (those awful flashing disc lights and ugly looks) also stack up against the DVD-360 and DVD-380. And with decks available for £170, £280 is nothing to get excited about.

On the plus side, the multi-region playback is a boon, but how many of those discs will cause problems? Sadly, we cannot recommend these decks until the software glitches have been sorted out ❐

### VERDICT

**Nasty looks and software problems outweigh multi-region capability and decent picture**

## SPECIFICATIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| PICTURE | 8/10 |
| SOUND | 7/10 |
| FEATURES | 8/10 |
| EASE OF USE | 7/10 |
| OVERALL | 5/10 |

**KEY FEATURES**
Multi-region
Dolby Digital/DTS output
3-disc tray

**WHAT'S GOOD**
Multi-region

**WHAT'S BAD**
Looks; software problems

**FEATURES**
DVD/VCD (with PBC)/CD/MP3 playback; multi-region play; Dolby Digital output; aspect ratio selection; multi-angle; NTSC/PAL playback; slow motion; repeat play; zoom; onscreen menu; parental lock

**SOCKETS**
***Front:*** twin mic sockets
***Rear:*** S-video output; 2 x composite video output, 2 x stereo phono outputs; optical digital output; coaxial digital output

**DIMENSIONS**
360(w) x 105(h) x 300(d)mm

**WEIGHT**
48kg

**CONTACT**
Qtec Systems Ltd ☎ 020 8458 9891

**TEST DATA**
Video jitter: 3ns (very good)
Frequency response (S-video) at 5.8MHz: -9.73dB (average)
composite video at 5.8MHz: -8.21dB (very good)
Signal-to-noise ratio: -77.6dB (excellent)
Chroma crosstalk: -44.1dB (below average)
Chroma AM/PM: -69.9dB/-69.4dB (excellent/excellent)
Digital deviation: 990.5 ps (poor)

# NOISY BUT NICE

**After last year's furore over Pioneer's lip-sync problems, its new generation of DVD players have a point to prove. Max Creely tries out the £280 DV-525**

A little over a year ago, Pioneer made a big impression with its technically proficient DV-717 DVD player and interesting hybrid laser disc/DVD decks, that saw the company move smoothly from the 12in video disc past to the emerging 3.5in future.

Then came word of lip-sync problems on all Pioneer DVD machines, which tarnished an otherwise unblotted copybook. With its latest generation, the company has gone back to the drawing board. We take a look at the entry-level version, selling for well under £300 in its Region 2 form, to see if can help reclaim Pioneer's DVD supremacy.

## DESCRIPTION

A surprisingly lightweight machine (2.8kg), but not too cheap-looking once you've set it down on its feet. The front panel has a fairly flat, uniform finish with a classy if unexciting design.

The control buttons (for main disc control) feel quite sturdy, but there are very few refinements here such as extra menu navigation access – that's only accessible on the remote.

Speaking of which, the handset is hideous – it's the only truly bad thing about the DV-525. It's a minuscule thing with row upon row of equal-sized, tiny buttons – almost impossible to tell apart in a hurry.

There's a slight attempt to aid usability with coloured outlines on the handset's face, but after all these years you'd think ergonomic design principles would lead to something better. If you have an AV receiver with a universal remote control then use that instead. Even Pioneer's own receiver handsets are an improvement in this regard.

For an entry-level deck, sockets are quite ample. There's only one Scart but it provides everything from composite and S-video to RGB. You also get separate composite and S-video outputs, stereo audio line output phonos and both coaxial and optical digital audio outputs.

A system control-in jack will link the DV-525 to other compatible Pioneer equipment (such as a receiver), for shared remote control operation.

## OPERATION

The fiddly buttonbox aside, setting up the player is a simple exercise thanks to the onscreen menu and Pioneer's redesigned graphical user interface. It's not as aesthetically pleasing as Sony's version, but each section has a clear heading and colour-coded stages.

Once set up, it's unlikely that you'll need to spend much time on this again unless you radically change your TV or audio arrangement.

The DV-525 is one of the few players able to output 96kHz audio, should you find a 'Super Audio'-type DVD in that format (and providing your receiver/amplifier can cope too). The DV-525, like most current players, supports DTS (again, more useful for the future than the present, unless using a modified deck to play American titles).

Playback options include the standard audio, language, subtitle and angle choices (depending on the disc of course). As well as chapter-skip, there are trick play operations such as frame advance, slow motion and fast scan (both directions), although the scan modes are especially jerky and hard to control.

## GUIDE PRICE: £280

Handier features include Resume Play, which picks up where you left off if you've stopped the disc and Last Memory, which stores a position on up to five discs for instant recall, even if the disc has been removed in the meantime.

Condition Memory stores data such as TV aspect ratio, language and parental lock for up to 15 discs, while Program Play offers programmable track-order storage for 24 discs.

A video noise reduction circuit can be enabled for problem discs but there's little day-to-day need for this. As detailed below, picture quality is good across a range of discs in most circumstances.

Audio Dynamic Range Control, which comes in three levels (or can be left off) boosts soft sounds without making loud noises even louder, mainly useful for late-night viewing.

### PERFORMANCE

Firstly, this is a fine player in terms of audiovisual playback quality. Where some economies have been made are in build quality. The disc tray is a noisy contraption and certain stages of disc playback lead to a high-pitched squeal from inside the machine (we presume this isn't a comment on disc content).

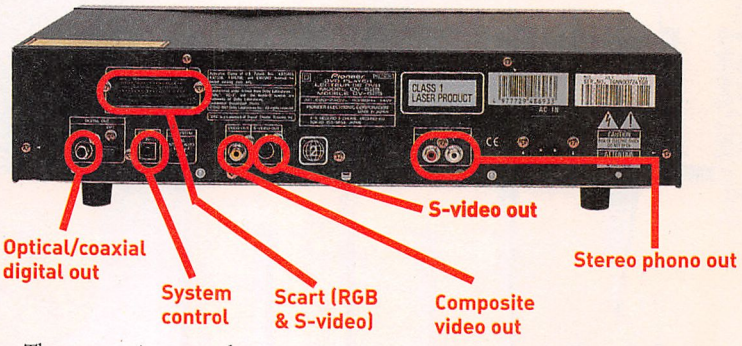
This is especially noticeable on menu screens, most extra features sections and the first few minutes of a film. Luckily, it soon settles down and the noise – which sounds like a mass of hyperactive grasshoppers – ceases to distract from the important business of movie watching.

On that subject, we spent a considerable time enjoying a range of recent Region 2 releases on the DV-525, including *Mighty Joe Young*, *Apollo 13*, *Pleasantville* and *The Matrix* (incidentally, it coped with all features of the latter perfectly).

**"Film soundtracks are thrilling to behold"**

Picture grain remains pleasingly unintrusive and complex scenes, including swirling smoke and fire, present the player with no difficulty. Overall image quality is good with exemplary levels of detail and naturalistic colour.

Outlines have a tendency to appear over-sharp when objects or people are against pale backgrounds but we have seen worse examples on other decks.




The respective sound highlights of the above films were thrilling to behold with a clear, gutsy quality across the range. CD playback too is more than satisfactory and there's the added pleasure of 96kHz/24-bit audio DVD output for those aforementioned rare discs.

One of the bugbears of 1999 that afflicted Pioneer players (among a few others) was the issue of lip-sync reliability. After many hours use we can report that there are no apparent audio-sync problems on this latest generation of Pioneers.

*Apollo 13*, a Region 2 title that slipped badly on a Sony DVP-S725, ran flawlessly. It also passed the infamous *Lock, Stock And Two Smoking Barrels* test with top marks.

### CONCLUSION

Though pricier than some budget players on the market, Pioneer's sub-£300 DV-525 is still good value for money with its reasonable roster of features and adaptable connectivity – two forms of digital audio output and RGB video via Scart. This puts it ahead of many comparable machines – Panasonic's DVD-A160 for example.

Audio and video quality are well above average overall and there's no evidence of the lip-sync problem that proved so controversial last year. The only major negative points are the awful handset and noisy disc operation ❐

### VERDICT

**A recommended purchase for nimble-fingered audio/videophiles who don't want to break the bank**

## SPECIFICATIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| PICTURE | 8/10 |
| SOUND | 8/10 |
| FEATURES | 8/10 |
| EASE OF USE | 7/10 |
| OVERALL | 8/10 |

**KEY FEATURES**
Dolby Digital/DTS
Optical and coaxial digital output
CD-R compatible
Video noise reduction
Resume Play/Last Memory

**WHAT'S GOOD**
Features; connections; AV quality for the money

**WHAT'S BAD**
Fiddly remote; occasionally noisy disc operation

**FEATURES**
DVD, VCD (with PBC), CD, CD-R compatible; Dolby Digital, MPEG, PCM, DTS output; 96kHz/24-bit audio; Audio Dynamic Range Control; onscreen display; video noise reduction; last memory; condition memory; NTSC VCD playback in PAL60 or NTSC; trick play; repeat play; A-B playback; random play; program play (with 24-disc memory); parental lock; bitstream rate display

**SOCKETS**
***Rear:*** one Scart (RGB & S-video & composite); S-video output; composite video output, stereo phono outputs; optical digital output; coaxial digital output; system control in jack

**DIMENSIONS**
420(w) x 104(h) x 286(d)mm

**CONTACT**
Pioneer ☎ 01753 789789
www.pioneer-eur.com

**TEST DATA**
Jitter: 5ns (good)
Frequency response at 5.8MHz (S-video): -6.84 (very good)
composite video: -6.68 (very good)
Signal-to-noise ratio: -68.7dB (average)
Chroma crosstalk: -58.4dB (good)
Chroma AM/PM: -63.5dB/-38.9dB (average/below average)
Digital deviation: 419.3ps

# THE MOD SQUAD

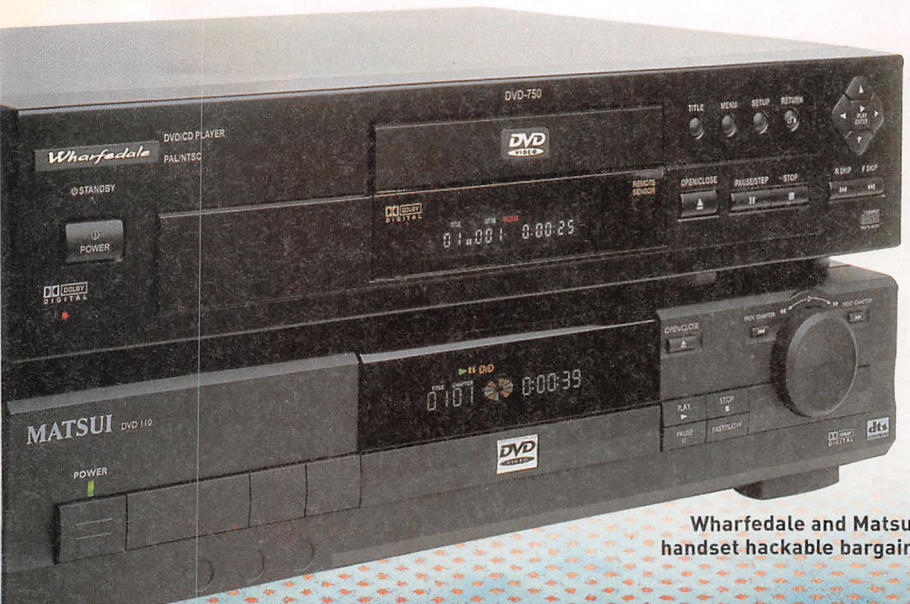
**Following on from last month's feature on the ins and outs of DVD regional coding, Martin Pipe offers a list of players which can be hacked or modified. Prepare to immerse yourself in the delights of discs from around the world**

Samsung's famous DVD-709

Almost all Region 2 players can have their hardware modified, or 'chipped' to enable them to play Region 1 discs, or titles from any of the six regions. This costs around £50-£70 on top of the price of the player. This invalidates the original manufacturer's warranty, but if it's done by a specialist company (rather than with a DIY kit), most offer a guarantee of the work as part of the service. This does not replace the original warranty though, so if any part other than the new chip fails, it will not be covered under guarantee.

Some players can be modified (or 'hacked') using the remote control, which is obviously cheaper, easier and does not invalidate the warranty. In some cases these hacks may be temporary, or less successful than hardware modifications.

Future editions of these machines may also be altered by the manufacturers to make the existing hack inoperable, but other hacks usually emerge. If you have internet access keep your eye on the main DVD-related websites and newsgroups (see below).




Wharfedale and Matsui: handset hackable bargains

## PROLINE DVD-1000, WHARFEDALE DVD-750 AND GRUNDIG GDV-200/210

For this hack you need to use a Region 1 disc and the player's own remote control:

Make sure the player is empty; open the disc tray; place the Region 1 disc in the tray but do not close it; press the buttons 0, 1, 2 and 3 in succession on the remote, then press Play on the remote. The deck should then play this and any other kind of disc. If for any reason a disc is rejected, try the handset sequence again.

(NB this group of players does not contain identical circuitry, but certain components are shared, thus making the hack work for all of them).

## SAMSUNG DVD-707, DVD-807 AND DVD-907

NB These players are no longer on sale, but a number are still in circulation.

For this hack you need to use a Region 1 disc and the player's own remote control (all Open/Close procedures are carried out using the handset, not the front-panel button):

Make sure the player is empty and have the disc tray closed; press the DVD button followed by Open/Close on the remote to open the tray; place the Region 1 disc in the tray and close it; wait for the player to reject the disc and remove it from the tray; press Open/Close to shut the tray; wait for the display to say 'NO DISC'; press the buttons Time Search, 1, 1 and 9 in succession; press Open/Close to open the tray; place the Region 1 disc in the tray and close it.

The deck should then be able to play any kind of disc. If this fails, try pressing the TV button and 2, 2, 0 instead of DVD and 1, 1, 9 in the above sequence.

## SAMSUNG DVD-709 AND DVD-909

For this hack you need to use a Region 1 and a Region 2 disc, the Samsung's remote or certain Aiwa hi-fi remotes (see list below), or a One-For-All Topline universal remote control.

Stage 1 (with a One-For-All Topline): press the Aux button, then hold down the Magic key; 'Timed Seq' will appear on the handset; press Menu/minus once, 'Dev Set Up' will appear; use the menu Plus/Minus keys to find 'Tuner' on the handset, then press Enter, type 121 and Enter again.

Stage 1 (with an Aiwa hi-fi remote): the remotes (and relevant key-presses) for the following Aiwa model numbers are reported to work: RC-6AS02 (press Random); RC-8AS04 (press Random); RC-7AS06 (press Shift and Random); RC-TN500EX (press Shift and Random); NSX-S505 (press Shift and Random); NSX-D606 (press Random); ZR88 (press Random).

Stage 2: switch on the Samsung from standby with the disc tray empty and closed; press the Aiwa keys mentioned above or the Magic key and 079 on the One-For-All; the tray should open with 'Adjust' appearing in the display. This is the 'partial' hack. To make it permanent, carry out the following instructions:

Stage 3: Place an R2 disc in the tray and let it play for a few secs; press Setup on the Samsung's remote; change the parental lock code (the default is 7777) to 3521, and set the parental lock to Level 1; play the disc again for a few more secs before removing it and switching to Standby via the remote; switch it back on; place an R1 disc in the tray; it should prompt for the parental code; enter 3521; play the disc for a few secs; finally, press Setup to change the parental code to Unlocked. The deck should now be multi-regional with Macrovision disabled. As we went to press, *What Video & TV* discovered that a firmware update which allows the DVD-709 to play DVD-ROM material has disabled this multi-region hack – see *News* for more details.

Philips: choose your region

## PHILIPS DVD 730 & 930 (PAL)

This pair of DVD players can also be reprogrammed for multi-region playback with nothing more elaborate than the supplied remote handset. Without a disc in the drawer, turn on the player. Press Play, then enter 2, 7 and 4 in succession. You should see a row of blank spots in the display. Now type in the following succession of numbers: 005 000 128 256 and press Play again. When the picture on your TV turns red, press Play.

Your Philips player should now be able to play Region 1 and 2 discs. Out of interest, the first three numbers in the above sequence are responsible for changing the region code. If you want to revert to single-region operation, use the above procedure but with the following sequence of numbers instead:

001 000 128 256 (Region 1)
002 000 128 256 (Region 2)

## MATSUI DVD 110

Stage 1: power on the DVD and make sure there is no disc in the drive.

Stage 2: on the remote press Menu, then 9, then Open/close, followed by 5;

Stage 3: you will get a sub-menu asking which region you want, 1-6. Enter the appropriate number and press OK;

Stage 4: insert a disc and off you go.

The machine will play back NTSC but only via the RGB Scart socket. It is unclear whether there is any limit to the number of times you can change region, and you cannot get Region 0.

Below is a selection of players which can be modified, with details of whether they can be hacked or modified and if so, by whom and how much it will cost. ➤

**"Remote control 'hacks' may be temporary"**

The Matsui hack may have limits

# THE MOD SQUAD

## BUSH 2000

Typical cost of R2 version: **£200**
Remote control hackable? ✗
Where can I get hardware hack? **Techtronics**
Dealer-modifiable? ✓ **£80**
DIY kit? ✓ **£40**
Macrovision defeat? ✓
Typical cost of ready-modified player: **n/a**

## DENON DVD2000

Typical cost of R2 version: **no longer available**
Remote control hackable? ✗
Where can I get hardware hack?
**Techtronics**
Dealer-modifiable? ✓ **£66**
DIY kit? ✓ **£26**
Macrovision defeat? ✓
Typical cost of ready-modified player: **n/a**

## DENON DVD-3000

Typical cost of R2 version: **£700**
Remote control hackable? ✗
Where can I get hardware hack? **Techtronics**
Dealer-modifiable? ✓ **£80**
DIY kit? ✓ **£40**
Macrovision defeat? ✗
Typical cost of ready-modified player: **n/a**

## PANASONIC DVD-A100

Typical cost of R2 version: **no longer available**
Remote control hackable? ✗
Where can I get hardware hack?
**Techtronics, *HCC* website, Paul Taylor**
Dealer-modifiable? ✓ **£49-£66**
DIY kit? ✓ **£19-£26**
Macrovision defeat? ✓ **Mod only covers R1 to 4**
Typical cost of ready-modified player: **n/a**

## PANASONIC DVD-A350

Typical cost of R2 version: **£700**
Remote control hackable? ✗
Where can I get hardware hack? **Techtronics, Paul Taylor**
Dealer-modifiable? ✓ **£64-£80**
DIY kit? ✓ **£34-£40**
Macrovision defeat? **Possibly**
Typical cost of ready-modified player: **n/a**

## PHILIPS DVD-710/730/930

Typical cost of R2 version: **no longer available**
Remote control hackable? ✗
Where can I get hardware hack?
**Techtronics, Paul Taylor**
Dealer-modifiable? ✓ **£69-£87**
DIY kit? ✓ **£40**
Macrovision defeat? ✗
Typical cost of ready-modified player: **£300 (DVD-710 by Techtronics)**

## PIONEER DVD-515

Typical cost of R2 version: **£450**
Remote control hackable? ✗
Where can I get hardware hack? **Techtronics, Paul Taylor**
Dealer-modifiable? ✓ **£64-£100**
DIY kit? ✓ **£34-£58**
Macrovision defeat? ✓
Typical cost of ready-modified player: **n/a**

## PIONEER DVD-717

Typical cost of R2 version: **£600**
Remote control hackable? ✗
Where can I get hardware hack? **Techtronics, Paul Taylor**
Dealer-modifiable? ✓ **£64-£100**
DIY kit? ✓ **£34-58**
Macrovision defeat? ✓
Typical cost of ready-modified player: **£450 (Techtronics)**

## PIONEER DVL-909

Typical cost of R2 version: **£900**
Remote control hackable? ✗
Where can I get hardware hack? **Techtronics**
Dealer-modifiable? ✓ **£49**
DIY kit? ✗
Macrovision defeat? ✓
Typical cost of ready-modified player: **n/a**

## PROLINE DVD-1000/WHARFEDALE DVD-750/GRUNDIG GDV-200 & 210

Typical cost of R2 version: **£185**
Remote control hackable? ✓
Where can I get hardware hack? **Techtronics**
Dealer-modifiable? ✓ **£69**
DIY kit? ✗
Macrovision defeat? ✗
Typical cost of ready-modified player: **n/a**

## SAMSUNG DVD-707/807/907

Typical cost of R2 version: **no longer available**
Remote control hackable? ✓
Where can I get hardware hack? **Techtronics**
Dealer-modifiable? ✓ **£69**
DIY kit? ✓ **£41**
Macrovision defeat? ✓
Typical cost of ready-modified player: **n/a**

## SAMSUNG DVD-709

Typical cost of R2 version: **£250**
Remote control hackable? ✓
Where can I get hardware hack? **Techtronics, Paul Taylor**
Dealer-modifiable? ✓ **£64-£75**

DIY kit? ✓ **£34-£41**
Macrovision defeat? ✓
Typical cost of ready-modified player: **£250 (Techtronics)**

### SAMSUNG DVD-909

Typical cost of R2 version: **£380**
Remote control hackable? ✓
Where can I get hardware hack? **Techtronics, Paul Taylor**
Dealer-modifiable? ✓ **£64-£75**
DIY kit? ✓ **£34-£41**
Macrovision defeat? ✓
Typical cost of ready-modified player: **£350**

### SONY DVP-S525

Typical cost of R2 version: **£450**
Remote control hackable? ✗
Where can I get hardware hack? **Techtronics, Paul Taylor**
Dealer-modifiable? ✓ **£79-£148**
DIY kit? ✓ **£49-£100**
Macrovision defeat? ✓
Typical cost of ready-modified player: **£380-£400**

### SONY DVP-S725

Typical cost of R2 version: **£550**
Remote control hackable? ✗
Where can I get hardware hack? **Techtronics, Paul Taylor**
Dealer-modifiable? ✓ **£79-£148**
DIY kit? ✓ **£49-£100**
Macrovision defeat? ✓
Typical cost of ready-modified player: **£500-£525**

### THOMSON DTH-2000

Typical cost of R2 version: **£500**
Remote control hackable? ✗
Where can I get hardware hack? **Techtronics**
Dealer-modifiable? ✓ **£80**
DIY kit? ✓ **£40**
Macrovision defeat? ✗ **Regions 1 & 2 only**
Typical cost of ready-modified player: **n/a**

### TOSHIBA SD-2109

Typical cost of R2 version: **£360**
Remote control hackable? ✗
Where can I get hardware hack? **Techtronics**
Dealer-modifiable? ✓ **£87**
DIY kit? ✗
Macrovision defeat? ✓
Typical cost of ready-modified player: **£300**

### TOSHIBA SD-3109

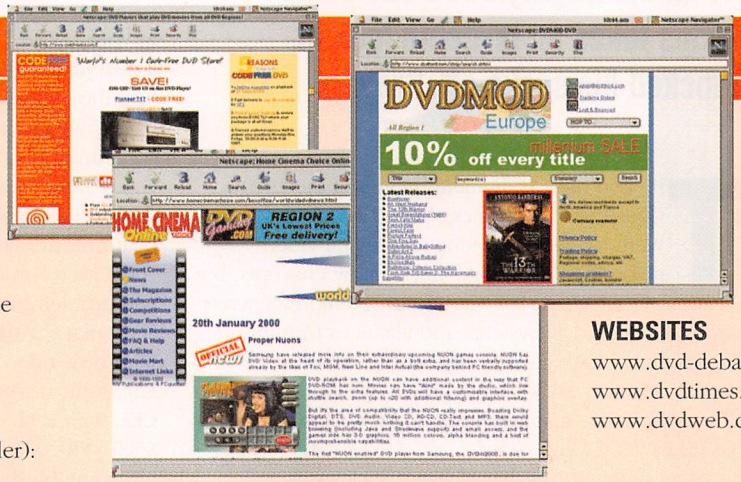
Typical cost of R2 version: **£500**
Remote control hackable? ✗
Where can I get hardware hack? **Techtronics**
Dealer-modifiable? ✓ **£87**
DIY kit? ✗
Macrovision defeat? ✗
Typical cost of ready-modified player: **£360**

### YAMAHA DVD-S700

Typical cost of R2 version: **£600**
Remote control hackable? ✗
Where can I get hardware hack? **Techtronics, Paul Taylor**
Dealer-modifiable? ✓ **£64-68**
DIY kit? ✓ **£34**
Macrovision defeat? ✗

## CONTACTS

Code-Free DVD: ☎ (0800) 783 7652
www.codefreedvd.com
Techtronics: ☎ (01778) 562920/(01784) 740357
www.techtronics.com
Paul Taylor: ☎ (01733) 352122
Home of Irwin van den Berg's Remote Selector for PC-based players:
www.visualdomain.net
*Home Cinema Choice* website:
www.homecinemachoice.com
DVD Express (American on-line retailer):
www.dvdexpress.com)
DVDepot (Canadian on-line retailer):
www.dv-depot.com
DVD Box Office (Another Canadian on-line retailer): tot.dvdboxoffice.com




Lowest-price US DVD finder:
www.dvdpricesearch.net
Disc Shop (European importer):
discshop.com

DVDMod (European importer):
www.dvdmod.com
Play (importer):
www.play247.com

### WEBSITES

www.dvd-debate.com
www.dvdtimes.co.uk
www.dvdweb.co.uk

### NEWSGROUPS

uk.media.dvd
rec.video-dvd.misc
creative.products.dvd.misc

# VIVA LAS VEGAS

**After last month's report on the mighty 2000 CES show in Las Vegas, Adrian Justins takes an in-depth look at the gear which really knocked his socks off. Prepare to be amazed...**

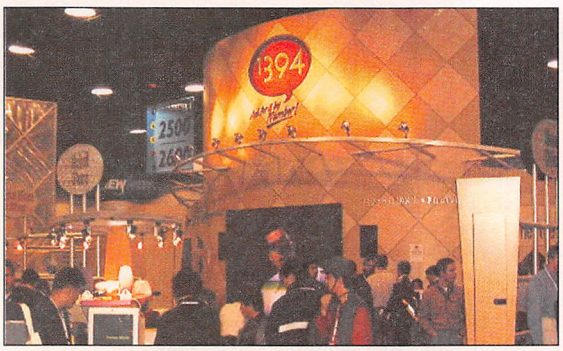
The two most prominent themes at the 2000 Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas were home networking and digital video recording. These may not be new concepts, but are areas in which we are starting to see more concrete proposals, with rival systems and alliances forming. For example, Sony, in typically confident fashion, blew its Memory Stick trumpet long and loud, albeit with some significant backing vocals from the IEEE1394 (i.Link) camp.

Sony's intention is that Memory Stick cards will, as they increase in capacity and data transfer rate, become the cornerstones of the home entertainment world. Entire rafts of products – including cameras, camcorders, MP3 players, portable computers and mobile phones – will use the same storage format. They will interface with a home network, providing communication to and control of every electrical device in your house, from the computer to the curtains. It's a neat idea, being able to ring home from the pub, turn the lights on at dusk and tell the microwave to have your dinner ready at 9.30.

During his keynote address Microsoft big cheese Bill Gates identified hurdles to overcome. 'Communication devices are single-purpose right now and many different platforms are being used,' he said.

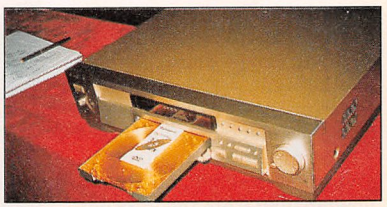
With recordable DVD bedevilled by format rivalries and problems concerning compatibility with existing DVD players, the big AV guns are starting to take the hard disk video recorder seriously. Both Sony and Panasonic unveiled personal video recorders (PVRs) at CES, with each company backing rival platforms. Sony's £300 SVR-2000 features a 30Gb hard drive capable of recording 9hr in its highest quality mode, or 30hr at the lowest bit rate.

Although the unit doesn't sport a two-way i.Link connection future generations are expected to, thus forming an integral part of the home network system described above. Sony's box uses the TiVo system,




**IEEE1394 staked its claim as the de facto interface for home networking**

**Over 1,500 exhibitors filled the Las Vegas Convention Center**



**DVD-RAM caused a stir**

while Panasonic's unusually named ShowStopper works with the rival Replay system. The UK will probably see its first personal video recorder (PVR) by the end of this year.

In last month's *What Video & TV* we wrote about the latest news concerning recordable DVD (see *News From the US*) reporting on several manufacturers' key announcements at CES. Panasonic's VDR-10000 DVD-RAM recorder attracted a great deal of attention. The deck has a recording capacity between 2hr and 4hr, which is determined by the bit rate selected.

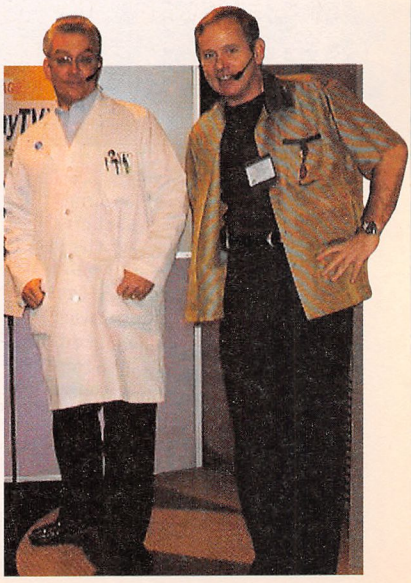
The unit features a built-in timebase corrector and 3D Y/C separator for reducing jitter and noise. The VDR-10000 does not feature an i.Link connection, nor can discs recorded on it be played back on existing DVD players. The RAM camp was also boosted by Samsung's notice that it will have a DVD-RAM deck on sale by the autumn.

Meanwhile, in the DVD-RW corner, Pioneer – whose DVR-1000 deck is already on sale in Japan – was boosted by the announcement that Sharp is to produce its own DVD-RW recorder. The deck records video in 32-step increments, offering between 1hr and 6hr capacity depending on the bit rate selected. Output connections include S-video and composite video, but not i.Link. Sharp's deck goes on sale in Japan in the spring, but neither machine is likely to appear in the UK before 2001.

Thomson declared its support for Philips' DVD+RW system, with the promise of NTSC models by end of 2000. Unlike DVD-RAM and DVD-RW discs +RW discs can, according to Philips, be played on a majority of the DVD players already on the market, a major factor behind Thomson's decision to go with +RW. Philips demonstrated its system at the CES by making live recordings on its prototype deck using a DV camcorder. It then asked watching journalists to select which DVD player to use for playback.

The quality of the recorded image was below that of VHS. When questioned about this a spokesman initially tried to blame the low lighting level. It looks like it will be some time before the technology is ready for the market. Neither Philips nor Thomson disclosed a price for their decks. ▶

**I'm Randy and he's Jim, and we believe your life will be complete once you buy our amazing product**



# VIVA LAS VEGAS

### SONY DVP-FX1

Panasonic and Sony were among those manufacturers launching new portable DVD players. Both companies unveiled slimline machines with 7in 16:9 widescreen LCD monitors. Sony announced its £950 DVP-FX1, which sports a 4hr Li-ion battery and will go sale in May. A screen-less version, the £380 DVP-F5 will also appear. Panasonic's £1,000 DVD-L75 features Dolby Digital and DTS sound, plus Virtual Surround and a three-hour Li-ion battery. A 5in screen version, the DVD-L55, and non-screen version, the DVD-P55, will also be released this year

### TOSHIBA SD9200

Toshiba launched DVD players with progressive scan component video output. The SD9200 and SD6200 incorporate Toshiba's proprietary Super ColorStream technology, which gives a film-like, flicker-free image plus improved edge definition and enhanced colour detail. Both machines use 27-bit/54MHz DAC to virtually eliminate artefacts, and feature DNR noise reduction. The SD9200 features 24-bit/192kHz D/A converters to provide compatibility with DVD-Audio software

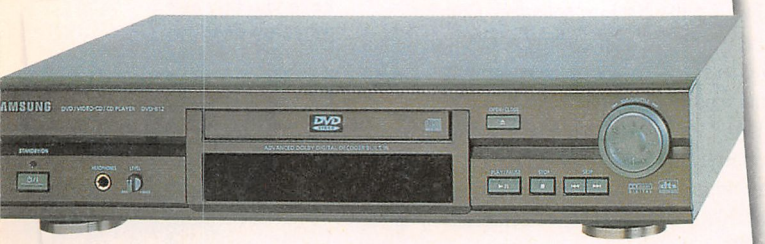
### PIONEER DV-F707

Several manufacturers demonstrated multi-disc DVD players, including Pioneer with its 301-disc machine, the DV-F727, which is due to go on sale in the US by March for £700. The deck has a keyboard input with DVD Text and can be daisychained to another unit. A step-up model, the £800 DV-F707, provides RS232 connectivity and allows a database of information on stored DVDs and CDs to be downloaded from the internet. The user can then select titles by genre, title, artist or cover art using an onscreen display. There are no plans to launch a 301-disc machine in the UK. Toshiba, Panasonic, Sony, Marantz, Philips and Samsung all displayed five-disc changers

### Sony TRV820

Camcorders don't seem to grab many headlines these days, but there were some ground-breaking developments announced by JVC, Sony and Panasonic. Sony unveiled the world's first camcorder with a built-in printer. The £500 DCR-TRV820 Digital8 cam can make business card-sized prints of still images grabbed from the tape or the camcorder's Memory Stick.

While Panasonic's camcorder line-up was dominated by five new DV models, the VHS-C PV-L850 caught the eye by virtue of its built-in TV tuner. So when you next get invited to a wedding on Cup Final day, you can take the cam along and pretend you're shooting while watching the footie. JVC launched the DVL9800, its first DV cam capable of delivering 520 lines of resolution, plus XGA resolution still images



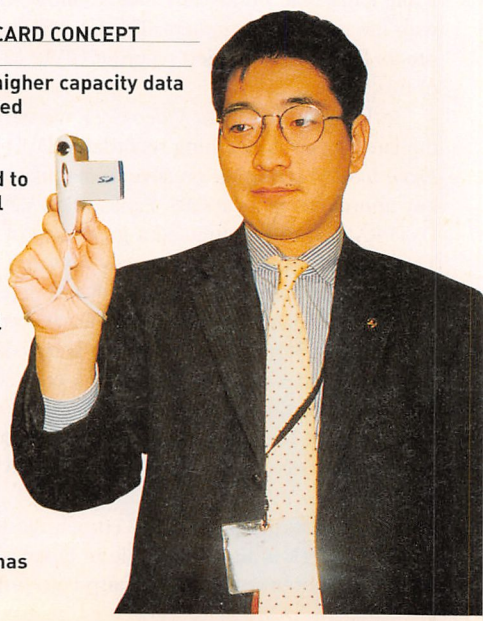
### SAMSUNG DVD-812

Samsung launched five single-disc DVD players, including a top-end machine, the DVD-812, with MP3 audio file and CD-R/CD-RW playback. The player also sports a jog/shuttle dial, built-in Dolby Digital decoder, DTS optical and coaxial output. The unit will cost a mere £190 when it goes on sale in the US in May. The entry level DVD-612 will sell for £160.

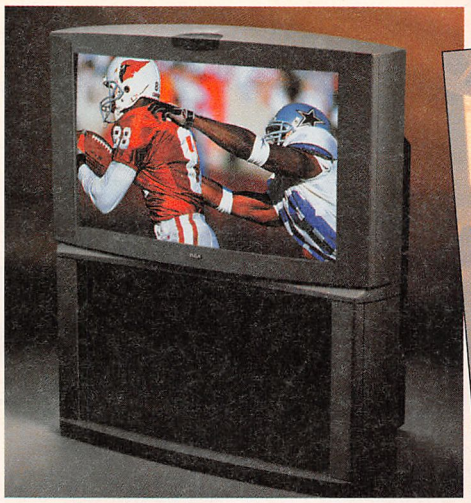
Samsung also introduced the first DVD player to use NUON technology, designed to improve the performance of DVD players during scan and slow modes. The first player to feature NUON technology will be the DVD-N2000, which goes on sale in the US this spring for £310

### PANASONIC SD MEMORY CARD CONCEPT CAMCORDER

The race is on to develop higher capacity data storage cards with improved data transfer rates. Panasonic, Toshiba and SanDisk have collaborated to produce the Secure Digital (SD) memory card. SD is currently limited to 64Mb, but by 2003 this card (not much larger than a postage stamp) will hold 1Gb and, with a data rate of 10Mbit/sec, opens up the possibility of a whole host of miniature AV products such as this camcorder. Meanwhile, Sony has joined forces with Lexar Media to increase the data rate of Memory Stick. The battle has only just begun...



**RCA F38310**
With a 38in screen size RCA's (US arm of Thomson) F38310 is the world's largest digital CRT TV. Equipped for viewing high-definition broadcasts, the set will go on sale in the US this summer. Most of the big guns paraded HD-capable TV sets. Samsung claimed its 43in set with a Ferro-electric LCD screen is the highest definition TV ever made

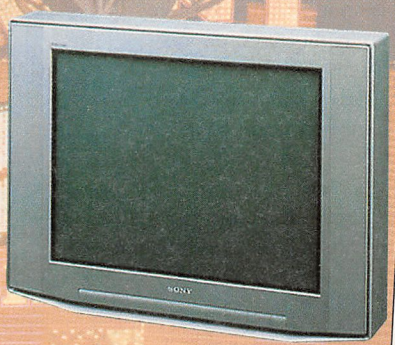


**MARANTZ DV-18**
Included among the plethora of DVD players were one or two models blessed with true high-end home cinema functionality. Marantz's DV-18 is a state-of-the-art THX Ultra-certified DVD deck, which will sell for around £800 in the US. Features include 96kHz/24-bit audio sampling, component video outputs and Dolby Digital, plus DTS audio. The company also announced, like Denon, a THX Surround EX receiver, the Reference Series SR-19

**JVC JX-S777**
Equipped with eight sets of input terminals, five sets of output terminals, three DV (i.Link) connections and one set of processor in/out terminals, the JX-S777 is the AV selector that high-end home cinema setups have been waiting for. Designed to accommodate advanced AV gear such as D-VHS decks, DVD players and DV camcorders, this £560 machine enables input and output switching between these components without sound or picture deterioration

**THOMSON DVDble**
Thomson pushed out a raft of DVD-based prototypes with a futuristic bent, including the DVDble, a DVD/LCD TV combo. The unit sports a protruding carry handle and built-in speakers, and is designed to be used standing up as a CD player or on its side to show DVD movies

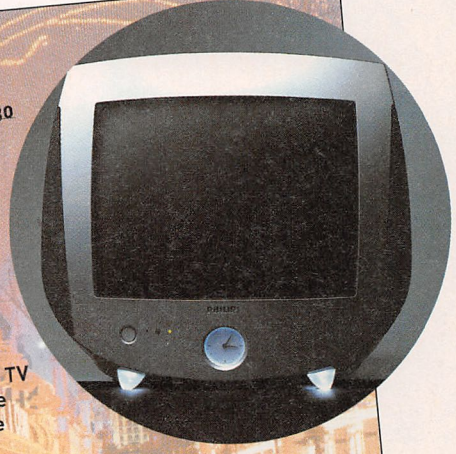
**SONY 36IN WEGA TV**
Headlining Sony's stunning range of Wega TVs is this 36in beauty. The NTSC range now exceeds 20 models, with a delightful 13in 4:3 set bringing a touch of class to the portable TV market. The flatscreen set is available in grey, white or blue and sports three-line digital comb filter, built-in clock and front and rear AV inputs



**JVC TH-A10**
JVC unveiled an all-in-one home cinema system, dubbed the TH-A10 DVD Executive Home Theater System. The system features brushed aluminium cabinets, uncluttered single-wire connections, built-in DVD-Video, VCR, CD, FM/AM tuner, Dolby Digital, DTS decoding and 200W total power output. Five full-range satellite speakers and a sub-woofer are also included. The system will sell for just over £1,000 when it goes on sale in April

**DENON AVR-4800**
Surround EX decodes an additional rear-surround channel, providing a more realistic surround sound environment by allowing smoother 360° effects with more precise localisation behind and beside the viewer. Denon's AVR-4800 is the company's first Surround EX receiver. A real powerhouse of a machine, it delivers 125W per channel, sports 24-bit/96kHz capability, Dolby Digital and DTS decoding and has what seems like a million connections, including eight optical and coaxial digital inputs. Good value at £1,250 for the US market

**PHILIPS 13PT30**
Funky, futuristic styling juxtaposed against an old-fashioned analogue timepiece give this Philips 13in TV a distinctive appearance



**SHARP LC-10A2U**
Ever wanted to watch *Eastenders* in the bath? Well now you can with Sharp's £800 LC-10A2U, the world's first portable 10in TV with an LCD screen. Just 2.5in deep, the set has a 180-channel tuner, S-video input and sports Gamma Correction, which lightens the background while maintaining the correct brightness of the subject. Sharp claims the set can be used in any environment, including steamy bathrooms!

**DENON AVR-1800** Dolby Digital/DTS receiver

# DYNAMIC DENON

**Denon's latest Dolby Digital receiver is the keenly priced AVR-1800. David Smith listens in and finds little to moan about – lucky lad**

Denon is celebrating its 90th anniversary this year, and it seems intent on celebrating by giving us all a present. The AVR-1800 is a well-specified, solidly built home cinema receiver at a very decent price.

It not only comes equipped to handle all of today's home cinema sound formats, but is future-protected as well, with six-channel inputs ensuring that you can easily upgrade if a new system comes along. But looks and price aren't everything, so let's take a closer look.

## DESCRIPTION

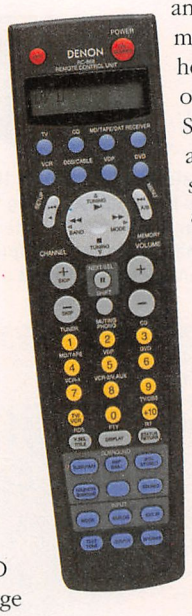
The AVR-1800 is fairly typical in its appearance. It is finished in black and its size and weight hint at some real power.

The front fascia is well laid-out, with the master volume knob, set to the right, dominating.

Other controls, including an input selection dial, speaker buttons and surround mode controls, are small and discreet and the overall effect is uncluttered and attractive.

The LED display panel can be dimmed or even switched off during operation. This is an often overlooked feature that is very welcome, meaning that you don't have to be dazzled by a light display when trying to concentrate on a movie.

Around the back there's a very healthy set of sockets, but one thing instantly jumps out at you – there is no S-video support. This isn't a disaster, as you can route an S-video signal directly from your DVD player to your TV, but it means that the AVR-1800 can't operate as the central switching hub of your home entertainment system by handling audio and passing video on to the TV. If you want it to function in this role you will have to settle for composite video signals.



This is a shame, as elsewhere the AVR-1800 cannot be faulted. There are eight stereo phono inputs and five composite video sockets. These are joined by a trio of stereo phono and composite video outputs.

Of more interest to DVD enthusiasts will be the range of optical inputs. There are two optical and one coaxial – an excellent selection, making it possible to hook up several pieces of kit at the same time. Sturdy binding posts are provided for each speaker, an area where some budget amps have been known to slip in the odd spring-clip terminal to keep costs down. It's also possible to connect a second pair of front stereo speakers, allowing you to run a pair of speakers into another room, and if 75W per channel isn't enough you can use the

## GUIDE PRICE: £450

pre-out sockets for the front stereo pair, centre and subwoofer to connect an external power amplifier.

The six-channel inputs, mentioned earlier, may seem unnecessary on an amp with Dolby Digital and DTS decoding already built-in, but it pays not to be complacent – who knows what may be around the corner?

Note that there is no onscreen display. Setup is handled via the front-panel display and an LCD panel on the remote control. This is a way of trimming a little off the price and, to be honest, won't be missed after initial setup has been carried out.

Finally, don't forget that the AVR-1800 is also a fully equipped RDS tuner.

### OPERATION

Once you have connected up your speaker system and AV gear to the AVR-1800, it's time to go through the initial setup. Anybody who has experienced a home cinema amp before will be familiar with the procedure.

First of all, you have to tell the receiver what sort of speakers you're using, so that it can adjust the output to each channel. Select from Large or Small for the front stereo pair.

Note that this doesn't refer to the physical size of the speaker, but whether it can handle a signal below 80Hz. A Small speaker, which is unable to go that low, will cause the AVR-1800 to ship frequencies below 80Hz on to the subwoofer.

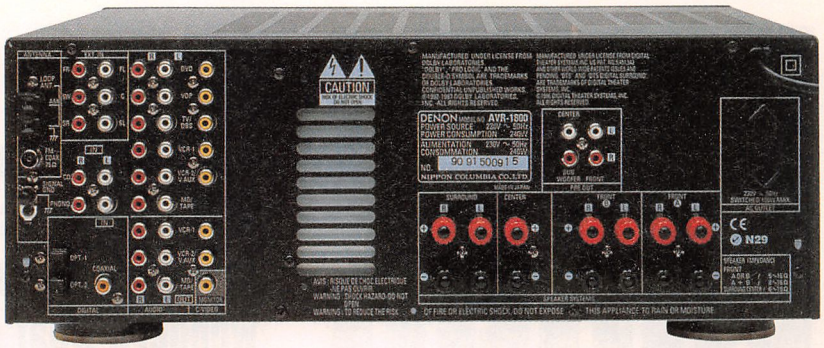
The centre and rear speakers can all be set to Small, Large or None and the subwoofer option is a simple Yes or No. We would strongly advise you to employ a full speaker system, including a subwoofer, to get the most out of Dolby Digital and DTS soundtracks.

> **"A highly capable receiver at a decent price"**

The tone control can be adjusted, boosting bass or treble, and there is a test tone generator to make sure that the speaker system is well balanced.

The AVR-1800's DSP modes can enhance playback of soundtracks if used carefully. There are the usual Rock Arena and Jazz Club effects, but of more interest are the other settings. Mono Movie in particular is useful, outputting a mono soundtrack through all the speakers for more impact, while 5Ch Stereo also employs all five speakers to get more out of stereo sources.

Matrix and Video Game offer similar ways of expanding a limited soundtrack and can really add to your enjoyment of older material, such as classic movies. Cinema EQ is a method of taming overly bright soundtracks (with excessive high frequencies), while Dynamic Range Compression softens the impact of loud effects while keeping quiet dialogue passages audible – ideal for viewing when the neighbours are asleep.




**Impressive connectivity includes two optical and one coaxial input, plus sturdy binding posts for speakers**

### PERFORMANCE

The AVR-1800 was fed a diet of Dolby Digital and DTS soundtracks and performed very well. The shattering beach landing from *Saving Private Ryan* is a demanding sequence full of special effects and precisely steered sonic imaging.

The AVR-1800 did a very good job of ensuring that every bullet appeared as an individual sound effect, and steering was excellent. The DTS version of this sequence delivers even more impact.

On music sources the AVR-1800 displays a light touch, presenting music CDs with depth and clarity. The sound quality leans towards bright as opposed to warm, but this isn't a complaint – it all depends on what type of sound you like.

The amplification on offer seems perfectly acceptable. The AVR-1800 can go loud without distorting and few will demand more power.

### CONCLUSION

This is a highly capable receiver at a decent price. The DTS capability may seem unnecessary with the scarcity of DTS software, but it is comforting to have a system which can handle anything you throw at it, and the DTS discs out there do deserve an audience.

There's little to criticise here, in fact, and the lack of S-video support is the only real gripe. Perhaps most impressive at this price point is the overall look of the machine. It's an attractive piece of home cinema furniture and when you consider its performance, it simply demands a place on your short list ❐

### VERDICT

**Apart from the missing S-video socket, this is an infallible receiver at a great price**

## SPECIFICATIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| SOUND | 8/10 |
| FEATURES | 9/10 |
| EASE OF USE | 8/10 |
| OVERALL | 9/10 |

**KEY FEATURES**
Dolby Digital/DTS
5 x 75W
RDS tuner

**WHAT'S GOOD**
Sound; versatility

**WHAT'S BAD**
No S-video support

**FEATURES**
Dolby Pro-Logic/Dolby Digital/DTS decoding; 5 x 75W amplification; cinema equaliser; dynamic range compression; DSP effects; tone control; test tone generator; RDS tuner

**SOCKETS**
***Front:*** headphone socket
***Rear:*** eight stereo phono inputs; five composite video inputs; two optical digital inputs; coaxial digital input; three stereo phono outputs; three composite video outputs; pre-outs for front left and right, centre and sub; FM antenna input; AM loop antenna socket

**DIMENSIONS**
434(w) x 171(h) x 416(d)mm

**WEIGHT**
11.4kg

**CONTACT**
Denon ☎ 01234 741200
www.denon.co.jp

# ERGONOMIC ERROR

**Harman Kardon's AVR 200 comes in at £400, which is a good price for a Dolby Digital receiver. Stuart M Robinson wonders what's missing**

There are two directions manufacturers can take when designing a budget receiver. They can either cram as many extras as possible into the box and skimp in terms of audio performance, or they can stick to the basics and concentrate on the sonic abilities of their product.

The £400 Harman/Kardon AVR 200 firmly sits in the second category. It's a Dolby Digital receiver upon which probably the most gimmicky feature is the RDS tuner. DSP modes are kept to a bare minimum and construction values figure highly on the agenda.

## DESCRIPTION

Externally, the AVR 200 looks like a classic HK, sleek lines and neatly laid-out – if a tad small – controls. The display is uncluttered too. We'd prefer to see a little more information such as a permanently indicated system volume, but the design is ideal for technophobes.

Even taking into account the difficult-to-keep-clean plastic fascia, construction values are commendable, even more so when one lifts the lid and peers inside. Rather than components being crammed together like sardines in a tin, the AVR 200's circuit boards, power supply and heat sink have room to breathe.

For a modern-day receiver, the AVR 200's power rating, 5 x 45W, looks like a steroid injection wouldn't hurt, but the power supply indicates otherwise. The AVR 200 has significant reserves on tap, more than numerous receivers with much higher stated power outputs.

This, in conjunction with the much-heralded high-current design, means that this receiver won't fall short given difficult or non-linear impedance loads (ie loudspeakers), and will be able to quickly meet the demands of high-volume transient events, such as explosions.

The AVR 200 uses a Crystal CS492305 Pro-Logic/Dolby Digital engine. Its presence bodes well for surround performance, but is also likely

## GUIDE PRICE: £400

to mean bass management constraints. We shall see.

Given the AVR 200's budget status, it comes as no surprise to find that connection options are a little sparse. There are six analogue input pairs and two output pairs, which is OK. But while there are 5.1 inputs for an external decoder, there is only one preamp output – for connecting that all-important powered subwoofer. Yes, HK amplification is always competent, but it's lamentable to be denied an upgrade path.

Digital signals are input via three available terminals, two coaxial electrical and the other TOSlink optical. Each input can be assigned to any particular source name except Tape, 6.CH and the tuner. Remember also that the AVR 200 can't convert digital signals to analogue for the purpose of recording, so it's always best to double-up with analogue connections where possible.

This receiver only accommodates composite video by way of four inputs and two outputs, so Y/C DVD and S-VHS signals are best routed directly to your TV or projector. The speaker terminals – decent-sized binding posts – will accept banana plugs, but pay close attention to their labelling, they're arranged very strangely indeed.

We had expected to see a greatly improved calibration procedure in this generation of HK, but the AVR 200 must have been overlooked in this area.

Sadly, only one preamp output

## OPERATION

To use the internal calibration noise, one has to engage either Dolby Digital, Dolby 3 Stereo or Pro-Logic modes. Dolby 3 Stereo doesn't help much if you have surrounds and there must be a Dolby Digital source playing before you can use that selection, so Pro-Logic seems the sensible option.

In all cases the circling pink noise swaps channels far too quickly and one feels somewhat harassed. There's also a sting in the tail, as no matter what you're doing at the time, after just 70sec the pink noise disengages, returning you to the currently selected source. That can be a nasty surprise if you're working with a reference level of 75dB and MTV is playing.

After careful adjustment, our front L/R channels were -4dB, our centre -4dB and our surrounds +2dB. There is no subwoofer calibration noise, but after much tinkering with external noise and a resolution not to move our M&K's volume off its THX Reference point, we arrived at a figure of -2dB.

Back in the spring of '98 we complained in *What Video & TV* that the HK AVR 75 required individual calibration for every mode and sadly, nothing has changed. For every AVR 200 mode, including two-channel stereo, the loudspeaker levels have to be re-entered.

And it gets worse. The stereo mode only affords subwoofer adjustment, so there's no way to reduce the output volume of your L/R pair, resulting in a significant increase in volume each time you return to that mode. The only solution is not

# HARMAN KARDON AVR 200 Budget receiver

to alter the default 0dB setting of the front L/R pair in any mode, instead calibrate all the other channels in reference to them.

The Crystal IC, as expected, stifles bass management options. A front setting of Large enables any combination of Large or Small for the centre and surrounds with or without a subwoofer, but choose Small for the front L/R pair and the only alternative on offer for surrounds and centre is None.

When a channel is specified as Small, bass below 100Hz is re-routed to the subwoofer. Unlike recent models from the likes of Denon and Yamaha, the AVR 200 doesn't present an option to prevent bass being doubled when listening to matrix material with a Large L/R pair and a sub in your system.

In its two-channel guise, the AVR 200 is totally unforgiving of poor source material. Poor recordings and transfers sound horrible.

Line up a track from quality stock such as Rebecca Pigeon's *Raven* (Chesky CD) and this receiver shines. Low frequencies are rich and powerful, the mid-range is open and uncluttered while the treble always remains clean.

This is one revealing receiver, and that factor can incite a love/hate relationship. Both the faults and the commendable aspects of recordings can be heard. Listen to a compilation disc and the variations between tracks are patently obvious.

**"The convoluted setup procedure will dissuade many potential owners"**

Although we shouldn't have encountered so many setup hassles, we were surprised to see separate delay settings for both Pro-Logic and Dolby Digital modes. You'll have to enter these individually – a global rear delay for the former with the addition of a centre delay for the latter.

Centre delay can only be changed when a Dolby Digital source is being played. In both cases, because the setting is in milliseconds, you have to perform a little mental arithmetic to arrive at the correct value.

In short, the setup procedure is ridiculously convoluted. Even with the aid of an excellent instruction book this will be enough to dissuade many potential owners, no matter how good or bad the AVR 200 sounds.

## PERFORMANCE

Thankfully, it's in this area that this receiver redeems itself.

Even expensive receivers struggle to turn in such a level of performance and it's quite a feat for the £400 AVR 200 to be the equal of many a similarly priced two-channel integrated machine. The depth, width and the way in which instruments are placed within the soundstage constantly amaze. Channel separation is also excellent.

There are only two DSP modes. They're neither wonderful nor awful, especially if the output of the surrounds is curtailed. Neither makes use of the centre channel.

Play a Dolby Digital soundtrack and it's immediately identified as 3/2.1 or 2/0, etc., but we did notice a few burps of digital noise when the bitstream was engaged, which is very unusual. For example, *Something About Mary*'s menus (R2 DVD) seemed to suffer.

Although we're excited by the AVR 200's two-channel/Pro-Logic expertise, Dolby Digital performance manages to top both. We have accused the home video version of the *The Matrix* of being disappointing, as it seemed to have lost its edge on R2 DVD.

However, the AVR 200 reclaims much of the missing excitement and impact. Take the first chapter for example, the digital communication noise, is placed within the soundstage with pinpoint accuracy and fizzes just like sharp telephone line distortion. Move on to the roof chase (C2) and the AVR 200 presents thumping LFE energy that's quite startling given a competent subwoofer. Given high-quality source material ranging from *Howard's End* to *Lost In Space* the AVR 200 is always enjoyable to listen to, and sometimes downright astounding.

If the HK has one sonic fault, it's that the portrayal of movie soundtracks can be slightly bright. This comes as no surprise given the transparent nature of the unit. While backing off the treble control a tad helps, the adjustment only effects the front L/R, when some control over the centre would be ideal.

## CONCLUSION

We're in something of a quandary when summing up the AVR 200. It has a number of negative points, no Y/C support, no preamp outputs and a setup routine that wouldn't be out of place on the Japanese game show *Endurance*.

Harman Kardon definitely needs to improve upon the current calibration mess for future generations of its products. On the other side of the coin, it sounds fantastic for a sub-£400 receiver ❐

## VERDICT

**Incredible sound at this price blighted by horribly complex setup procedure**

## SPECIFICATIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| SOUND | 10/10 |
| LOOKS | 9/10 |
| FEATURES | 6/10 |
| EASE OF USE | 5/10 |
| OVERALL | 7/10 |

**KEY FEATURES**
Dolby Digital
5 x 45W
RDS tuner

**WHAT'S GOOD**
Phenomenal Dolby Digital, Pro-Logic and two-channel sonic ability; instruction booklet; remote control

**WHAT'S BAD**
The setup routine from hell; no Y/C support and no preamp outputs except for the sub

**FEATURES**
Dolby Pro-Logic; Dolby Digital; 5 x 45W amplification; AM/FM RDS tuner; two DSP modes; remote control; sleep mode

**SOCKETS**
Direct 5.1-channel in; TOSlink optical digital in; 2 x coaxial digital in; 2 x video in; DVD/CD/tape in; 2 x stereo audio record out; subwoofer out

**DIMENSIONS**
440(w) x 156(h) x 400(d)mm

**WEIGHT**
12.6kg

**CONTACT**
(c/o Gamepath) ☎ 01908 317707
www.harman-kardon.com

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Sony's 41in rear-projection IDTV; JVC's DVL9800 DV camcorder with 520 lines of resolution; latest DVD decks including NAD's first player, Nakamichi's multi-region DVD10s and Sharp's sexy DV-L70 portable

(Contents subject to change)

# FLAWED GENIUS

**Sherwood's Dolby Digital and DTS-capable RVD-6095RDS comes in at just £250. Its looks belie the price tag, which is nice. But more importantly, how does it sound?**

Sherwood has packed Dolby Digital, DTS, five channels of amplification and an RDS tuner into a box retailing for just £250. A few years ago an equivalent purchase would not have seemed possible at this price. Even more surprisingly, from the front the RVD-6095RDS doesn't even look cheap.

## DESCRIPTION/OPERATION

However, the Sherwood's internal layout is strange as there are capacitors everywhere. You'd usually find a number in the power supply but to ensure a clean signal path, few elsewhere. In terms of power reserves, the RVD-6095RDS looks a little weak. 6,800 micro-farad per voltage side to cover all five channels isn't really adequate.

This perhaps explains why the specified output of 65W at 1kHz in a surround mode only applies when one channel is driven, not all five simultaneously or across the full frequency response spectrum.

Dolby Digital, Pro-Logic and DTS decoding are by way of a Yamaha integrated circuit, the YSS912C-F, which is likely to provide a good standard of home cinema performance.

There are six pairs of analogue inputs, including 6-channel inputs for an external decoder, two output pairs and two digital inputs – one coaxial electrical and one TOSlink optical. The latter will accept S/P-DIF inputs of the Dolby Digital, DTS, or PCM variety but not a laser disc RF signal. It's possible to assign either to VCR 2, DVD or CD, or to more than one source name, a feature usually found on more expensive pieces of hardware.

Costs are often cut on the loudspeaker terminals, but not in this case. The Sherwood has banana-capable binding posts for all five and they'll easily accept the likes of 79-strand in bare-wire form.

The video connections are composite-only. There are three inputs (one on the fascia) and two outputs, one of which routes signals to your monitor. A pair of Sherwood's proprietary Digi-link control terminals, a switched 100W AC outlet and terminals for FM and AM antenna complete the collection.

When it comes to installing the RVD-6095RDS, once again the number of available user-defined parameters are a surprise – bass management is particularly and commendably comprehensive, outclassing many more recognised and respected brands. Only one limitation applies, namely the inability to select anything other than Small or None for Centre and Rears if the Front L/R pair are also set to Small.

> *"The master volume level is both annoying and confusing"*

Delay settings are not quite so comprehensive. A global rear delay is applied (but a Centre delay is an option), and they don't apply at all to DTS modes, which is rather odd.

The calibration procedure is straightforward, but lacks subwoofer noise or a way to adjust the line-level subwoofer output. You'll need an SPL meter with external noise source such as Video Essentials (ASIN: 6305073279) to adjust your sub's own volume control correctly. This isn't surprising given the use of a Yamaha LSI. Yamaha isn't known for the importance of sub integration.

The supplied remote is nothing exceptional, but does offer access to most commands, including the test noise and output level adjustments when in Pro-Logic or Dolby Digital modes, plus generic preprogrammed control over a Sherwood CD player, equaliser and a couple of 'Decks' (whatever they are).

To evaluate the Sherwood with modest associated equipment, we selected a Panasonic DVD player (coaxial digital link), four Tannoy 631 loudspeakers for front and rears, a 623 centre and REL Q200E subwoofer. Using the REL eases the burden on the RVD-6095's own amplification, a sensible thing to do.

## PERFORMANCE

Upon listening to the Sherwood, the bargain basement outlay is not at all apparent. Dolby Digital can become muddled given complex material, such as the opening *Lost In Space* battle (Region 2 DVD), but soundtracks retain much of the power you'd expect from more expensive receivers. The low-frequency output is prodigious, and there's no cheap hardware-type fizzing treble response. This makes for an even-handed approach to both action movies and period pieces. A pseudo-RE-EQ curve is on hand should high

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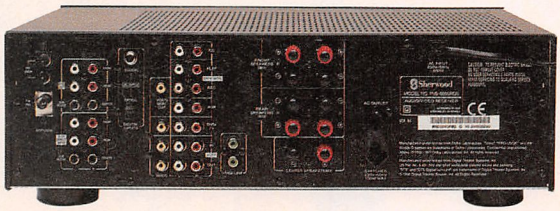

Connectivity belies the RVD-6095's price point

frequencies be over-emphasised in the source.

It is, of course, harder to produce good Pro-Logic than good Dolby Digital material on a budget amp, and even the best source material from laser disc PCM has a rather staid nature. There is no undue channel leakage or sub-standard steering, but the presentation just isn't involving.

On the other hand DTS processing raises the bar once more and the RVD-609RDS proves that decoding DTS is no longer only the domain of higher priced hardware. The RVD-6095RDS flawlessly recognises DTS from both DVD and non-flagged music disc sources. As for music listening, well, that isn't what you'd buy the Sherwood for.

There is, however, a serious operating logic flaw. This receiver's master volume level is retained according to mode. Imagine watching a Dolby Digital movie such as *Top Gun*, which is really loud. When the movie is over, the Sherwood drops back to Pro-Logic (as the default output from DVD is two-channel PCM), and you turn the volume down. However, the next time a Dolby Digital source is played, no matter how quietly, the previous Pro-Logic volume level has been set and the amp reverts to the previous Dolby Digital (loud) level.

After a while, the RVD-6095 has different volume levels for every processing mode – one minute it's loud, the next it's quiet. This is both annoying and confusing – especially as the fascia doesn't permanently indicate system volume. This really takes the gloss off what is otherwise a remarkable product.

### CONCLUSION

The RVD-6095 sounds good, looks good and has many features not available on a receiver costing twice as much.

But it loses marks for the illogical master volume setup. No receiver should have such an annoying flaw, not even for the modest price of £250 ❐

### VERDICT

**Great looks, performance and price tarnished by flawed master volume control**

## SPECIFICATIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| SOUND | 8/10 |
| LOOKS | 7/10 |
| FEATURES | 8/10 |
| EASE OF USE | 7/10 |
| OVERALL | 7/10 |

### WHAT'S GOOD

**Excellent sound quality and level of configuration for such a cheap box**

### WHAT'S BAD

**Volume control operating flaw results in nasty surprises and constant annoyance**

### FEATURES

**Dolby Pro-Logic, Dolby Digital, DTS; 60W per channel stereo (24Hz-20kHz onto 8Ω), 5 x 65W surround modes (1kHz into 8Ω, one-channel driven); three DSP surround modes (Theater, Hall 1, Hall 2); bass/treble tone controls; 30-preset FM/AM RDS tuner; remote control**

### SOCKETS

**6 x analogue audio input pairs, 2 x analogue output pairs; 6 x pre-outputs; 5.1 external decoder inputs; 3 x composite video inputs, 2 x outputs; 2 x digital inputs – 1 x TOSlink optical, 1 x coaxial electrical S/P-DIF PCM/Dolby Digital/DTS; AM (screw posts) & FM (75Ω coaxial) antenna connections; 1 x headphone jack; 1 x 240V 100W switched AC outlet; 2 x Digi-link control terminals**

### DIMENSIONS

**440(w) x 125(h) x 330(d)mm**

### WEIGHT

**10kg**

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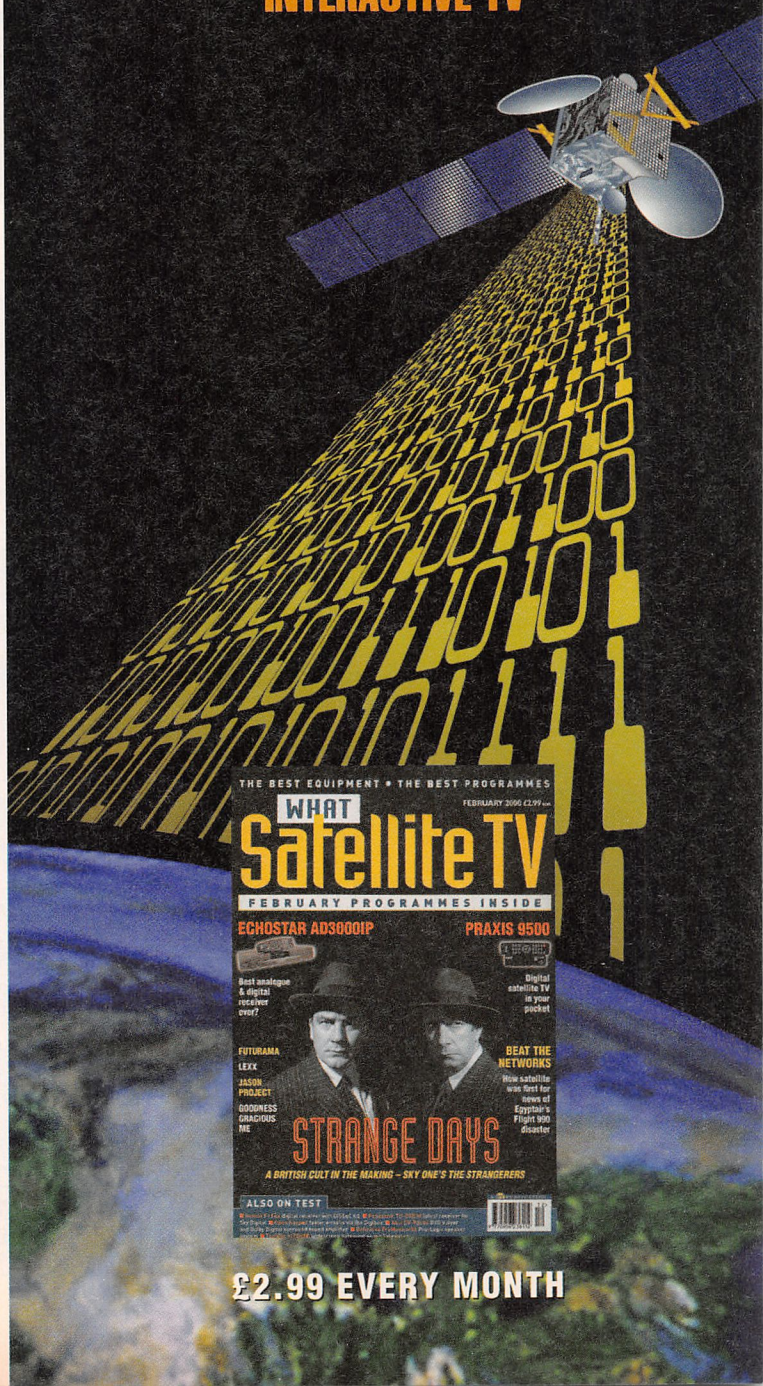


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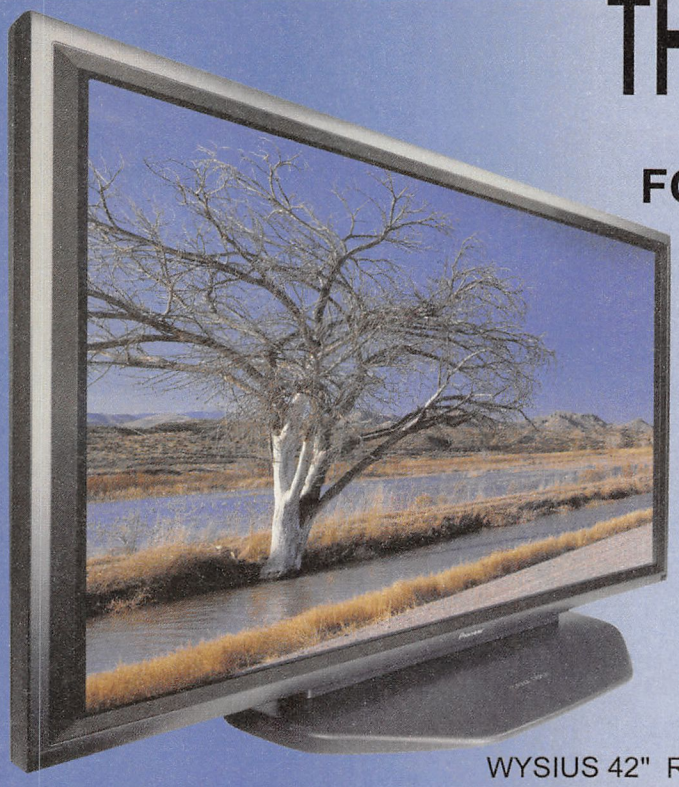

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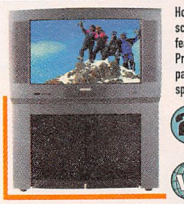

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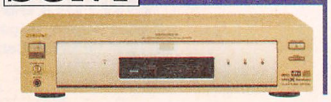

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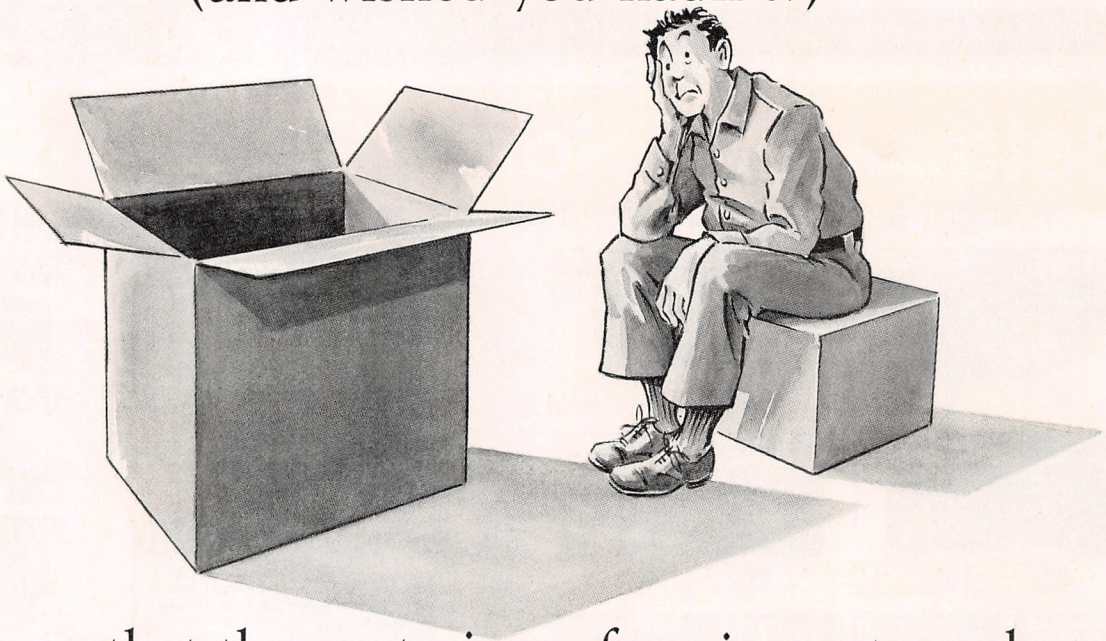

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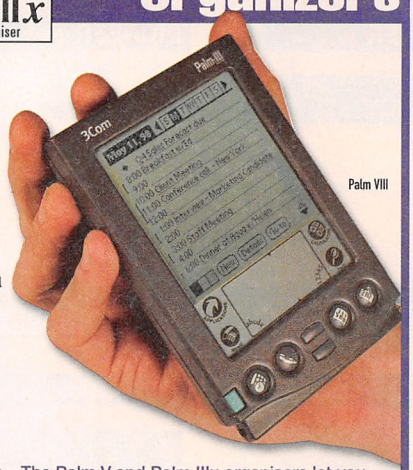

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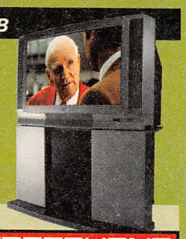

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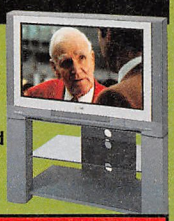

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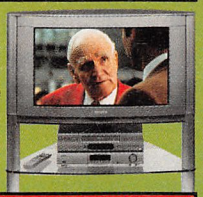

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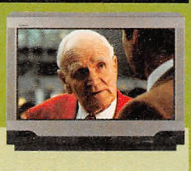

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## RIDE 'EM, COWBOY!

Western movies are ideal for DVD, and we look at some of the top titles, from the *Dollars* trilogy to *Silverado*!

## TEETHING TROUBLES

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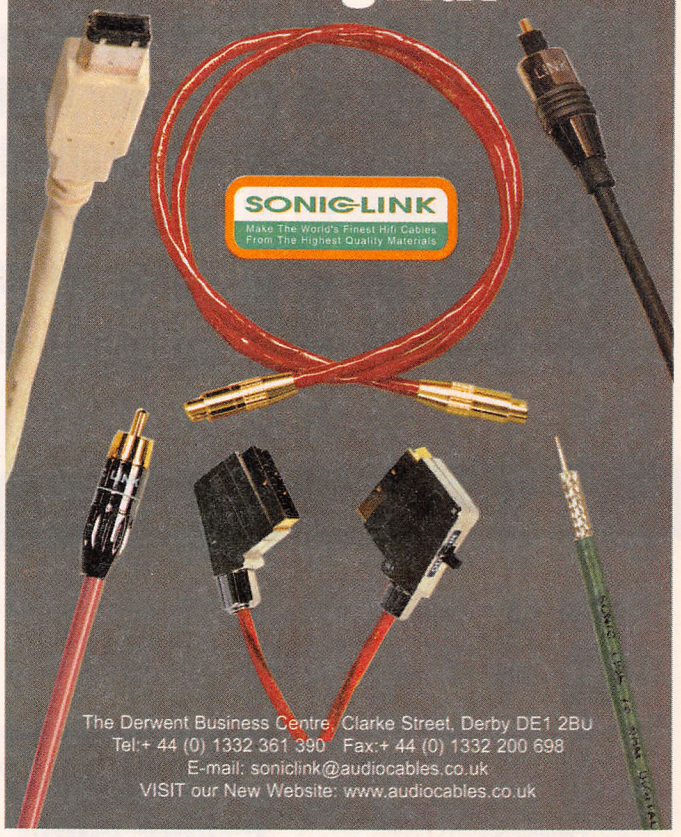


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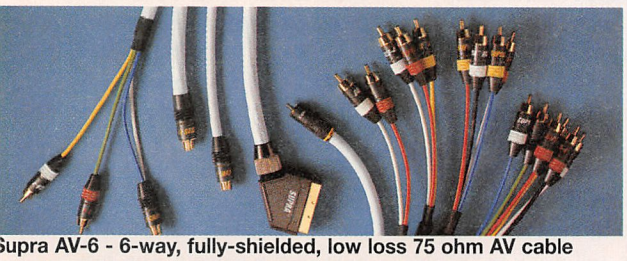

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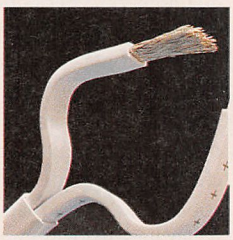

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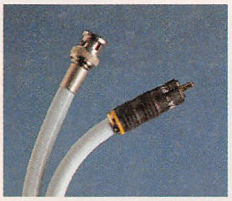

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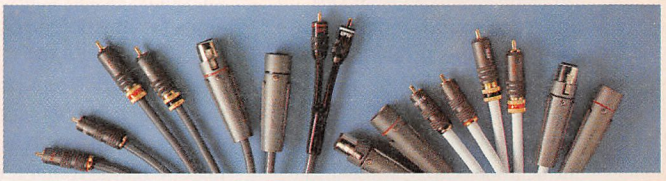

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# CABLE GUYS

**They may not get the juices flowing like a 56in Dolby Digital TV, but good-quality cables are an essential ingredient in an AV setup. In the first of two parts, Martin Pipe looks at the difference that proper wiring can make to an AV setup and tests 11 audio cables**

Ever spent a fortune on audio equipment and found that it hasn't given you the expected results? If so, you should first check that it has been set up according to the manufacturer's specification. This is particularly true of speakers. Some designs are, for example, intended to be placed near walls, others aren't.

The next thing to check is your wiring. If you are using the cables supplied with the equipment, you're virtually guaranteed to get better results if you upgrade. Those bundled leads are built down to a price, rather than up to a standard. They tend to be made of poor-quality coaxial cable, with cheap nickel-plated connectors spot-welded into place. This is hardly surprising when you consider that the manufacturers probably only paid a few pence each for them in bulk.

So are cables really that important? Yes, surprisingly they are. Cables have electrical properties, and as such can affect the sound. Indeed, the equivalent electrical circuit of a cable is surprisingly complex. Every cable, good or bad, exhibits properties known as inductance, capacitance and resistance. Combinations of these properties form the basis of filters, obvious examples of which are the tone controls fitted to home cinema amplifiers. Although these electrical properties are always present, a good cable will reduce them to the point where they no longer have any obvious detrimental effect.

> ***"Poor-quality cables could result in the disappearance of picture detail and distortion of colours"***

A poor cable might restrict performance at the upper and lower extremes of the audio range, and may even affect stereo imaging. The effects become worse with length – note that longer cables are often used to connect amps to subwoofers, or VCRs to hi-fi systems located in a different part of the room. In the worst case, different frequency bands may be handled differently, causing colouration.

## YOU GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR

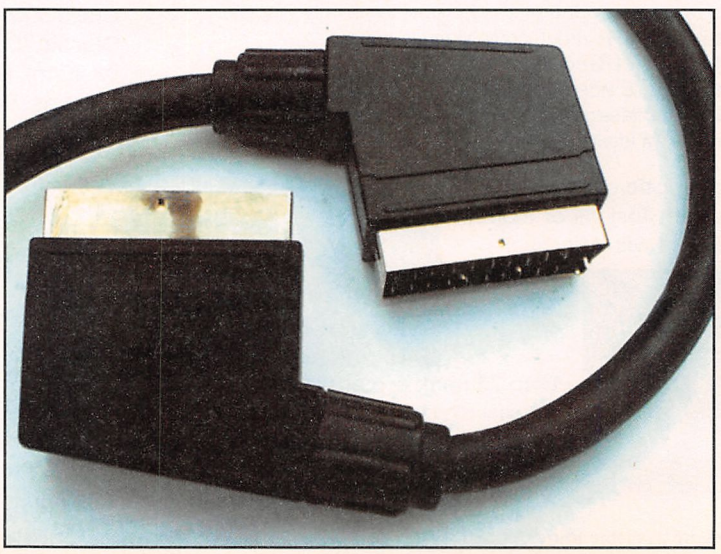
With expensive audiophile speaker cables the signal-carrying properties have been deliberately engineered so that some types are optimised for low frequencies, while others work best at high frequencies. These enable 'bi-wiring', in which two separate cables are run to each speaker.

In video terms, poor-quality cables could result in the disappearance of fine picture detail, and the distortion of colour information – especially over longer distances. Although the effects aren't particularly noticeable with relatively low-performance formats like VHS, they can be quite obvious on near-broadcast quality systems such as laser disc and DVD. In any case, Nicam VCRs are capable of a good quality sound from terrestrial broadcasts, self-made recordings and rental tapes. If a Nicam VCR is an important AV source component to you, don't let its performance down – hook it up to your amplifier with decent interconnects.

## STOP INTERFERING

Then there's the issue of interference. Mediocre video and audio interconnects have little screening, and are susceptible to the pick-up of unwanted interference (from, for example, radio transmitters). Sonically, you may experience random buzzes, whines and clicks. In video terms, such interference is often visible as low-level patterning, particularly on dark scenes.

With poor-quality Scart leads, the internal connections have an overall screen instead of individual screening. This may be cheaper to produce, but



there's no barrier to prevent signals carried over some conductors from leaking across to others. The results can be obvious, in the form of an audible buzz that changes with picture content. Visible picture patterning isn't unheard of, either. Again, the problem is worse over extended cable runs. Speaker cables are unscreened, but interference is less of a problem simply because they work at much higher signal levels.

Better-quality leads are also more reliable than the 'bell-wire' variety supplied with equipment. Cheap Scart cables tend to fall apart. Sometimes their pins will retreat into the plug, leading to intermittent connection, or even the complete disappearance of sound and vision. The connectors fitted to all cheap cables – audio and video alike – aren't plated, and tend to oxidise over time. This may lead to poor contact and intermittent results.

In the worst case, distortion will set in (effectively, the contact point between oxidised plug and connector becomes a diode that rectifies the signal). Although the tarnished plug can be cleaned up with emery paper to reveal the shiny metal underneath, it will eventually oxidise again. A better option is to opt for cables fitted with gold-plated connectors.

## BEWARE OF THE BLURB

That said, a great deal of rubbish is talked about cables, particularly in the eccentric world of esoteric hi-fi, where money appears to exceed sense. One specialist manufacturer printed a brochure full of pseudo-scientific nonsense. It was implied, courtesy of an impressive-looking mathematical formula, that audio cables were affected by a property known as 'skin effect'. Yes, skin effect can be a problem, `but only if you're working with microwave frequencies (to all intents and purposes, anything above 1GHz, or 1000MHz). In audio and AV installations, you'll seldom encounter signals above 5MHz.

Bamboozling a gullible public allows some manufacturers to sell cables for ridiculous amounts of money. It's questionable whether they perform better than cables available for a fraction of the price.

According to most AV installers, cables and interconnects should account for between 10 and 15 per cent of the total system cost. For example, if your AV amp, speakers and DVD player cost you £1,200, an investment of between £120 and £150 on speaker cables and interconnects wouldn't be unreasonable.

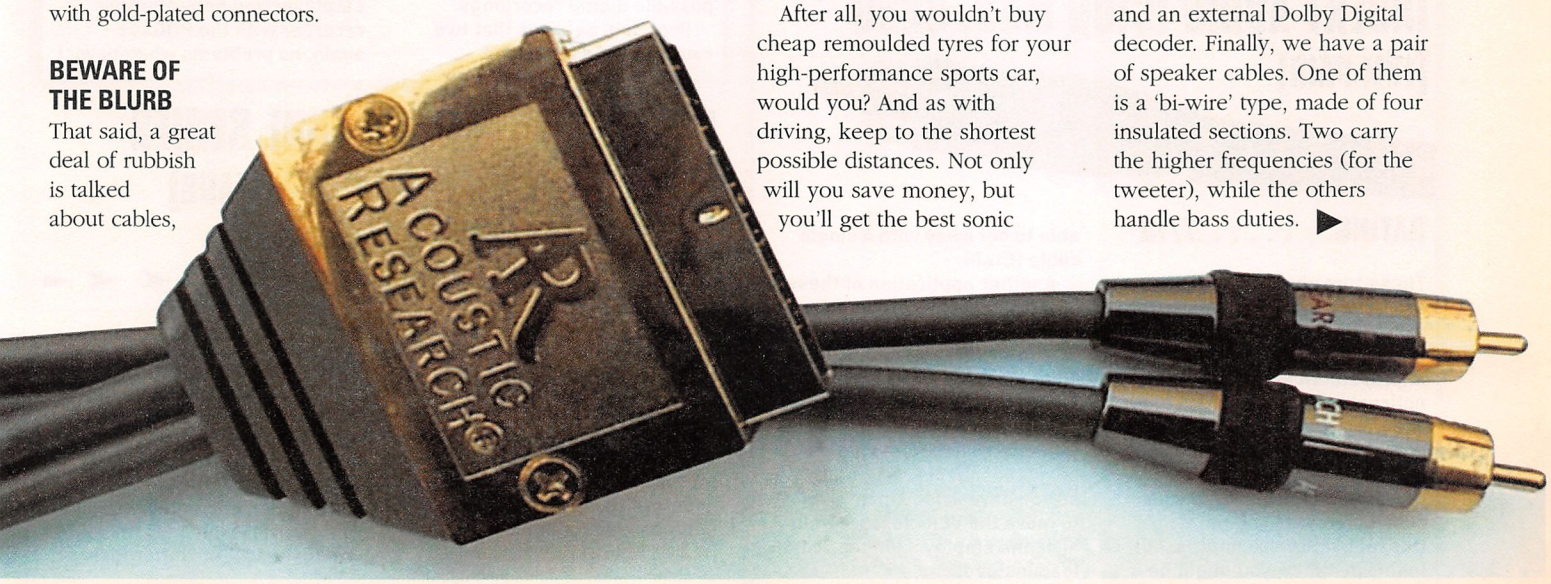
On the other hand, it's not worth spending more than £500 on cables with the same system, because the law of diminishing returns will apply. Combined with a proper equipment setup, correctly chosen cables will help you to obtain the performance you paid for.

After all, you wouldn't buy cheap remoulded tyres for your high-performance sports car, would you? And as with driving, keep to the shortest possible distances. Not only will you save money, but you'll get the best sonic and visual results. It's also a good idea to keep AV cables away from mains wiring wherever possible.

In the remainder of this article, we'll be focusing on audio interconnects. The first are 'phono-to-phono' types. These would typically be used to hook up source equipment (eg a CD/DVD player or tuner) to an amplifier. Most are the standard 0.5m length, but some are much longer types intended for the interconnection of distant equipment (VCR-to-amp, or amp-to-subwoofer, to give two examples).

**"Bamboozling a gullible public allows some manufacturers to sell cables for ridiculous amounts"**

A selection of our cables are high-grade types that have been optimised for digital audio bitstreams. These are a recommended choice for the link between a DVD player and an external Dolby Digital decoder. Finally, we have a pair of speaker cables. One of them is a 'bi-wire' type, made of four insulated sections. Two carry the higher frequencies (for the tweeter), while the others handle bass duties. ▶



## CONNECTIONS (UK) MIDAS, £39

BEST BUY WHAT VIDEO & TV

**RATING: .....9/10**

This 1m audio phono pair is distinctive looking, with its flexible yellow wiring and chunky phono plugs with gold conductors. The Midas is intended for the interconnection of line-level equipment. You could, for example, hook up your Nicam VCR, DVD or CD player to your AV amp with them.

Sound quality is very good for the price – here's a cable that even cynical audiophiles will be happy with. It's full-bodied and rich in timbre, and does a fine job at getting the bass across. Although the review sample(s) were 1m in length, Connections will supply longer lengths if required. Simply add £8 for each additional stereo metre.

## IXOS 105, £25

**RATING: .....9/10**

Ixos takes affordable interconnects into high-end territory with the 105. This well made phono-to-phono cable features German company WBT's gold-plated phono plugs, which are generally acknowledged to be among the best available anywhere. The 105 is designed for digital audio applications – in other words, the interfacing of DVD players to Dolby Digital or DTS decoders. It could also be used to interface a CD player to an external DAC or MiniDisc recorder.

We had no problems with our Hitachi player and Denon decoder – pure unfatiguing sound all the way. Although it's sold – and indeed designed – as a digital cable, we found that it works exceptionally well as an analogue interconnect.

The complete frequency range is handled with dexterity. There's a rich tonal range, conveyance of excitement and bags of detail. Unfortunately, you'll need two (ie £50) for stereo. Finally, beware, those WBTs are a very tight fit.

BEST BUY WHAT VIDEO & TV

## INSERT AUDIO IC100 MK2, £256 (10M PAIR)

**RATING: .....7/10**

These 10m phono-to-phono cables are rather expensive, but very well made. Despite their length, they bring a perceptible improvement in finesse. A noticeable increase in low end 'slam' can also be detected. In other words, these are ideal cables if you envisage making line-level connections to your subwoofer. We tried them in this role, and were impressed! In this instance, you might be able to get away with a single cable (£148).

Another application of these lengthy cables would be the routing of sound from a Nicam VCR to a hi-fi system located some distance away from the TV. Then again, a 10m pair is almost as expensive as a Nicam VCR! Half-metre pairs are rather more reasonable at £34.50, so you have a good incentive to move the VCR closer to your hi-fi and employ a longer Scart lead instead.

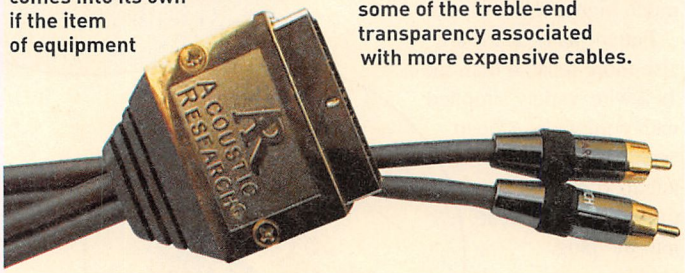
## ACOUSTIC RESEARCH HT704, £30

**RATING: .....8/10**

This 3m Scart-to-phono cable from US-based speaker company AR, is designed for feeding the audio output of a satellite receiver, TV, VCR or other device into a hi-fi or home cinema system. Construction, both internal and external, is impressive for the money. You get AR's 'Pro' cable, and gold-plated Scart and phono plugs. The HT704 really comes into its own if the item of equipment in question doesn't have a pair of phono outputs.

Most TVs don't sport such socketry, neither do some satellite receivers and cheap Nicam VCRs. The cable is very well made, and its length should span the physical divide that exists between most people's TVs and hi-fi systems. After all, the hi-fi and TV/video are rarely co-located.

The HT704 turns in a credible performance, although it lacks some of the treble-end transparency associated with more expensive cables.




## PROFIGOLD PGD491, £30

BEST BUY WHAT VIDEO & TV

**RATING: .....10/10**

This robust digital interconnect, which features a 75cm length of '99.997 per cent pure copper cable,' is intended for hooking up a DVD player to a DTS/Dolby Digital decoder. Other applications comprise the connection of CD transports to digital-to-analogue converters, and the hook-up of CD players to MiniDisc decks for the best possible digital recordings.

Profigold believes that two could be used for stereo analogue applications. The plugs are a very tight fit, but that's no bad thing in the long run. Make sure they're pushed fully home, or you'll just get the sound of silence, as we discovered! Properly inserted, the cable worked exceptionally well with our Hitachi DVD player and Denon decoder, conveying a clear and dynamic sound from de rigeur test discs like The Matrix. We also linked a Philips CD player and Sony MiniDisc recorder with the PDG491 – again, no problems whatsoever!

## INSERT AUDIO SIGNATURE SERIES IMAGE 5.1, £130 (FIVE 0.5M LEADS)

**RATING: .....8/10**

Five 0.5m phono-to-phono interconnects in a pack? An odd number, but not if you've got a Dolby Digital decoder or DVD player. It's a shame you don't get six of these robust beasties, but a 0.5m length of IC100 (tested below) proved ideal for the '0.1' (ie sub) channel.

These cables yield a noticeable improvement over the decoder-to-amp leads supplied by the manufacturer. Dynamics are better, as is presentation and detail. In other words, even 0.5m of wire makes all the difference.

## VAN DEN HUL PB5, €50 (0.8M PAIR, €20 PER EXTRA STEREO METRE)

**RATING: . . . . . .9/10**

The PB5 is an 80cm-long pair of phono-to-phono interconnects. The conductor is a unique mix of pure copper, silver and a special form of carbon, and is covered by a chemically inert and highly flexible substance known as Hulliflex. Impressive technology, but this is reflected in the asking price. That said, there are plenty of dearer cables around.

Sound quality is on a par with the Insert Audio Reference 5.1, although there are subtle differences in presentation. In particular, the PB5 has a warmer character than the Reference, making it a good partner for amplifiers of an 'upfront' nature. The PB5 is also recommended for connecting CD players and other hi-fi components to your amp.

Van den Hul will also make cables to your spec. We obtained good results when connecting up our sub via a 3m length of PB5. The product's excellent bass performance is clearly an asset here.

BEST BUY WHAT VIDEO & TV

## LEKTROPACKS PAL1/5M, €36 (5M)

**RATING: . . . . . .8/10**

Here's an extra-long stereo phono interconnect, with at least two applications. You could run it from your Nicam VCR to an AV amp, or from the amp to your subwoofer. Despite the low-ish price, it's well constructed using good-quality double-screened cable and gold-plated phono plugs. Another plus point is that Lektropacks will make up cables to the length you specify, the minimum being 0.5m.

Sound quality is fair. There's plenty of bass, although critical listening from CD sources reveals that it can sound rather muddled on occasions. Resolution is good for a cable of its price, and a fair amount of detail is conveyed to the listener. If you've got a good-quality Nicam VCR separated from your audio equipment, this is our recommended cable in terms of value for money.

## VAN DEN HUL SKYTRACK HB, €6 PER METRE

**RATING: . . . . . .7/10**

This is an affordable cable designed for bi-wiring speakers. Two of the connectors carry bass signals to your speakers' 'LF' terminals, while the other two carry the treble to the 'HF' speakers. At the amp end of the operation, both cables are connected to the same pair of output terminals. Many of the speakers employed by upmarket home cinema installations are bi-wireable.

Not that Skytrack HB is restricted to front-channel duties. A single length of Skytrack could, with its four conductors, route signals to both rear speakers (in most systems, the rears aren't bi-wireable).

As with the HB5 interconnect, some interesting technology is employed. The flexible Hulliflex insulation covers a series of oxygen-free copper strands that are coated with pure carbon. Sound quality? Miles better than the glorified bell-wire that the average punter is using, certainly. There's a fair amount of bass drive, but it does lose definition and control when the soundstage gets busy.

Treble and mid-range, on the other hand, are nearly always conveyed with articulation and clarity. Overall, though, a certain excitement seems to be missing. Note that a 'single-pair' version of Skytrack, the £4 per metre Skyline, is also available.

## LEKTROPACKS HCAL1/5M, €13 (5M)

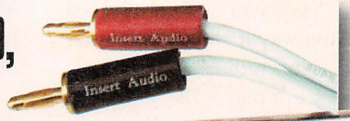
**RATING: . . . . . .7/10**

If you're on a tight budget, the cost of some of the above may be disheartening. Fear not. This reasonably priced cable is far superior to the patch cords supplied with your equipment in terms of construction and performance. You should definitely hear an improvement, particularly in terms of recovered detail.

We tested the 5m version, which is an excellent choice for connecting budget Nicam VCRs to remotely located AV amplifiers. Critical listening with high-end hi-fi equipment reveals, perhaps understandably, that the HCAL1 won't compete in absolute quality terms with top-quality cables. In these situations, it can deliver a fast-paced and enjoyable sound, but the finer details are missing. Dynamics can be rather flat, too.

But if you've got high-end equipment you'll be in the market for better cables anyway. As far as the target audience is concerned, these cables are a bargain. The 0.5m length – ideal for CD-to-amp and other 'local' connections – is a mere £5. A 1.2m pair is £7.50, while 10m will set you back £20.

## SUPRA CLASSIC 4.0, €3.95 PER METRE




**RATING: . . . . . .9/10**

BEST BUY WHAT VIDEO & TV

Hailing from Sweden, these speaker cables are sold for hi-fi and home cinema use. Compared to many 'upgrade' speaker cables, they're very affordable. Just as well, because surround sound systems often require up to seven speaker cables. The Classic cables tested have pure copper multi-strand conductors, but importer Glaive tells us that the latest batches have tin-plated conductors for greater long-term reliability (the copper oxidises in time). There's no effect, says Glaive, on sound quality, but applications in tricky environments, such as car audio, are now possible.

The cables supplied – 3m for the fronts and centre, 10m for the rears – were fitted with Glaive's own gold-plated 4mm banana plugs. These are of excellent quality and look likely to last a long time. Sound quality from a Dolby Digital source is equally impressive – a distinct leap forward over 'bodge' cabling. Bass is more articulate and better-defined, while fine details – notably those at the treble end – are delicately portrayed. The pace and rhythm of music soundtracks (DVDs and CDs) are also conveyed well. In all, a very nice cable for the money.

## NEXT MONTH

In part two, we look at cables designed specifically for connecting video equipment ❐

## CONTACTS

Connections (UK): ☎ 01487 832424
Van den Hul: ☎ 020 8997 4280
www.vandenhul.com
Ixos: ☎ 0121 776 7616
www.ixos.co.uk
Acoustic Research (c/o Recoton): ☎ 0161 702 5010
www.recoton-europe.com
Insert Audio/Supra (c/o Glaive): ☎ 01622 664070
Profigold (c/o Bandridge): ☎ 020 8543 3633
Lektropacks: ☎ 08700 711911
www.lektropacks.co.uk

# VIDEO CLINIC

Paul Richards is here to answer all your video and AV problems

**Going to the EPROM – fixing *The Matrix***

## SONY SOLUTION

I am planning to purchase a new TV and VCR. I'm after a 25 or 28in widescreen TV and a decent edit VCR. I am also planning in the near future to purchase a DVD player. I own a Sony Digital8 camcorder and obviously want to get the best results possible within my budget of £1,200. I already have a surround sound system with speakers.

**A Lofthouse**
**Leeds**

## MATRIX MALADY

I have just bought a Samsung DVD-709 player and I'm pleased with the way it works. I already have a dozen discs and all play well except one – *The Matrix*. The machine simply will not play it, refusing to read its contents or anything. A replacement disc fares no better. Can you shed any light on this?

Secondly, I understand that this player has RGB output. My dealer says that my current TV has no facility for this and at some stage I've got to update it. Does RGB offer a real improvement in the picture, and do projection sets have RGB-in?

**James Richford**
**Gravesend, Kent**

*The incompatibility between Samsung DVD players and* The Matrix *(also* Something About Mary*) has been discovered, and a remedy found. The cure involves a replacement EPROM memory chip which can be fitted by – or on behalf of – the dealer from whom you bought the player at no cost to you beyond taking it to and from the shop.*

*Yes, RGB gives a definite improvement over composite and S-video – the picture is cleaner, sharper, and free of PAL artefacts. All current projection TV sets have RGB-in sockets suited to your Samsung, as well as PAL inputs for a VCR, satellite, etc.*

## YOU MUST BE YOKING

I was very interested in *Buzz Words* from Richard Wale and your reply (*Video Clinic*, p107, February '00 issue). My Panasonic TX32PF10C also makes an annoying buzzing noise.

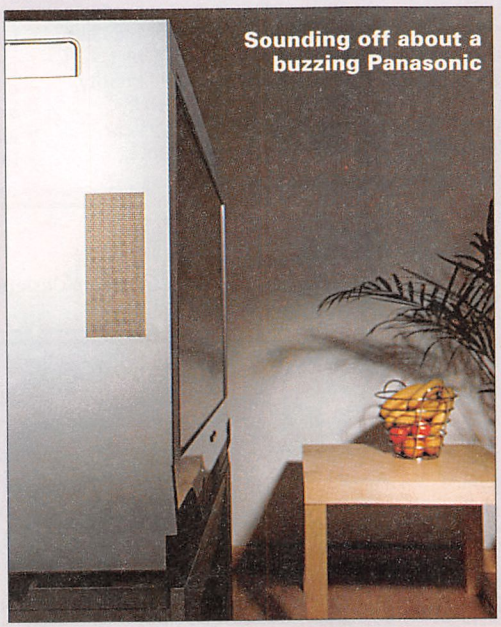
My dealer (Farthing and Short, near Bath) kindly replaced the set, but the new one buzzed at the same level. I spoke to Panasonic and was informed that the cause was just as you described in your reply to Richard Wale.

Apparently, in order to eliminate the buzz Panasonic would have to build so much into the set that it would become uneconomical. How come my old Philips TV didn't buzz then?

So, Richard Wale, you are not being paranoid – the 'yoke' is on us! Is there a solution?

**Wayne Judson**
**via e-mail**

*I cannot subscribe to Panasonic's claim that it would have to build any more parts into the TV to get rid of the buzz. A better design of deflection yoke would have done the job. As you say, other large-/widescreen makes and models do not buzz in this way. Meanwhile, there is an update on this one. By removing a plastic cover and applying a special sealant (available from Panasonic) to the deflection yoke, your dealer's engineer may be able to reduce (but probably not eliminate) the buzz problem.*



**Sounding off about a buzzing Panasonic**

## SEEKING SECRETS OF THE SET

Two years ago (on the strength of a *What Video and TV* review) I bought a Panasonic TX25MD3 TV. It worked well until a few days ago, when the picture height reduced to about 6in. Now everything we watch is in widescreen.

I can't find any setting for picture height in the onscreen menus. I have found out that this adjustment is part of a 'concealed' set for the use of service engineers.

Can you tell me how to get into the menu for height adjustment? There are one or two other geometry settings I want to tweak while I'm at it.

**David Reid**
**N London**

*I'm sorry, but I can't tell you that! It would be a breach of manufacturer's confidence and would result in a torrent of letters to* Video Clinic. *You can actually damage a set by indiscriminate twiddling of the 'electronic screwdriver'. Correct adjustment can only be achieved with full service manual instructions plus knowledge and experience.*

Send your queries to *Video Clinic*, *What Video & TV*, 57-59 Rochester Place, London NW1 9JU, or e-mail: WhatVideoClinic@aol.com. Make e-mails FAO *Video Clinic*. For a guaranteed personal reply, post your query with a cheque for £3.95, made payable to Paul Richards, together with an SAE. The answers to selected questions will be printed in the magazine. Unfortunately, we are unable to reply to every e-mail.

# SOUGHT

*You can hook the TV and VCR to your surround system, for the full soundstage, so you'll only need a Nicam TV and Hi-Fi/Nicam VCR. My suggestion for the TV would be the Sony KV-28FX60, with three Scart sockets, RGB input (for DVD) and an excellent picture.*

*For the VCR, look at Sony's SLV-80UX, with TV-capable remote control, front AV sockets, audio dub and many other features. Their combined price may take you a little over your intended budget, but not too much if you shop around and maybe look for a discount for a big deal.*

**A super Sony setup**

**Secret Service codes – for trade eyes only**

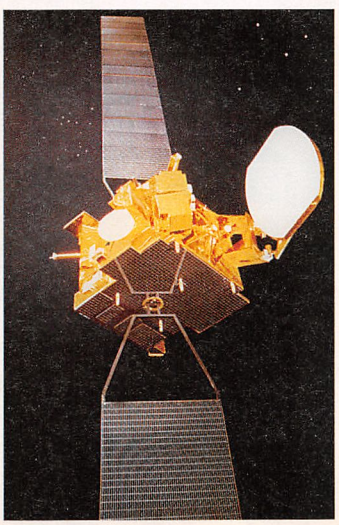
*In any case, the symptom you describe is very unlikely to be due to incorrect adjustment. Almost certainly a component in the field-scan section has failed. Panasonic UK (☎ 0990 357357) can put you in touch with a local appointed service centre. The repair will probably not be difficult or expensive.*

## D2-MAC BRIGADE

I need to improve the quality of my satellite TV reception, as it suffers from sparklies and pictures dropping out. I have an analogue Amstrad SRD545 sat box, an 88cm Triax dish (original manufacture, not the ones recently introduced) aligned on Hot Bird 13° E and a D2-MAC decoder CTU916 – all of which is working well.

I propose purchasing a Genesis 3 0.4dB analogue LNB. There are two: a 40mm and a C120 (the LNB in use is a Cambridge NF 0.7dB Universal III AE 54). If you advise this, which one do you recommend?

**JGA Turner**
**Hastings**



*Well, there's precious little left on Hot Bird in the way of D2-MAC programming. Indeed, the number of analogue programmes of any type from 13° E is rapidly dwindling.*

*You should, as long as your existing 0.7dB LNB is in good condition, get sparklie-free reception with the equipment you have now. Carefully check the alignment of the dish and the positioning/skew-angle of the LNB. If necessary, try another downlead cable before replacing the LNB.*

*If all these give no improvement, then yes, the (expensive) 0.4dB unit will improve things – at least while the transmissions last! You'll need the 40mm unit for your Triax dish.*

## SUB-PAR SUB

I have recently achieved my ambition of purchasing an overhead video projector and converting a room into a home cinema. My problem is that since moving my system into this room (I used to have it all connected to my TV in the lounge), I seem to have lost most of the bass from my REL Q-50 sub, especially that lovely sub-bass that you can actually 'feel'.

The new room is quite a bit smaller than the lounge (about 18ft x 9ft). However, the walls are dead straight, whereas the lounge had quite a few nooks and crannies. I've read somewhere about 'standing waves'.

Is that what's causing the lack of bass? If so, is there anything that I can do about it, or would a second subwoofer be the answer? I've tried playing with the various speaker settings on my Yamaha DSP-A1 amp. Also, the sub has been sited in every position in the room that I can think of. At the moment the Celestion MP-1 rears and B&W CC6 centre speaker are set to Small in the amp setup, with the main Kef Coda 9 fronts set to Large.

The sub is now situated facing into the front left-hand corner of the room. This is the most successful setup so far, as far as bass goes, but still not nearly as good as my lounge!

I've also noticed that some auditoriums have a kind of lumpy foam rubber stuck to the walls. I suspect that this may be the answer to my problem, but I haven't a clue what it's called or who to contact regarding it.

**A Snelling**
**Maidstone**

*I've known this sort of thing to happen when the equipment is moved between rooms with very different construction, eg wooden or concrete floor and plasterboard or brick/breeze block partition walls. In any case, I don't believe that sticking anything to the walls will help, aesthetically or acoustically.*

*The only practical solution (if you are sure that all the equipment is still working OK!) is, I believe, a bigger and more powerful subwoofer. Look at the REL Q100E, an excellent 100W product, and perhaps talk about trading in with your audio dealer.*➤

# VIDEO CLINIC

**Switching channels: BBC Digital on the move**

## PHILIPS' LEVEL BEST?

I own a Philips 32PW6332 widescreen TV on which I am having to set the tilt control to maximum just to get a level picture. Is this normal or is there something wrong? Why does it have a tilt control when other TVs don't seem to?

**D Lindsay**
**Godalming**

*If the picture is truly level at the setting you've made, there's no problem. It may be that the beam-deflection yoke in your set has been fixed a degree or two out of true, a 'tolerance' which the tilt control is partially designed to compensate for.*

*Its main purpose, however, is to nullify the magnetic field of the Earth, and its setting then depends on the positioning of the set. Only very large screens like that of your set are vulnerable to this, and it's not unique to Philips TVs – JVC large-screen models, for instance, have a picture-tilt control.*

**Philips TV is on the level**

## NETWORK NEWS

My TV is an NEI/Network big-screen model E28G1TF. I haven't ever seen this brand featured in your column, so I'm hoping you can help me.

The problem is with picture brightness. Some of the time it's normal, but the picture is often very dark, even with the brightness on full. In the worst case the brightness fluctuates between low and normal levels. It happens on TV/satellite reception, and on VCR playback.

**J Collins**
**Birmingham**

*Yes, we've encountered NEI sets, even though this is not a well-known make. In your set there are several possibilities for this symptom, the most expensive of which is the LOPT (line output transformer), on which the tube anode supply potentiometer fails.*

*Before condemning this though, it's necessary to check resistor R215 and capacitor C206 on the picture-tube base panel, as well as the printed track there. Whatever the cause, you will need the help of a technician who can confirm the diagnosis, fit the necessary parts and then set the TV up.*

*I cannot now trace NEI or a spares supplier, so my best suggestion is to read through* Yellow Pages *for a company with experience of this make.*

## SHUFFLE KERFUFFLE

My new Sony KV32DS60 IDTV gives me good reception from the Rowridge transmitter, except for poor lip-sync on ITV and the fact that the BBC channels 'move around' overnight (eg BBC Choice appears where BBC1 was, BBC News 24 where BBC2 was, and so on).

I have to retune the set almost daily. The BBC, Sony and Meridian TV all blame each other when I speak to them. Can you please sort this out for me?

**Keith Millard**
**via e-mail**

*Yes, the basic problem is that the BBC is moving its programmes around within the multiplex. It's currently happening at various times and places. Whereas set-top boxes can cope with this by auto tuning as necessary, some types of IDTV, including your Sony, cannot at present. This necessitates manual retuning.*

*Sony has talked to the relevant broadcasters, and is looking to update the IDTV's internal software, not only to avoid the need for manual retuning, but also to equip the set for automatic software updating, similar to set-top boxes. This may also help with ITV lip-sync and digital text, problems not entirely down to the TV set!*

*Hopefully, the mod should be available at about the time this is published, perhaps in the form of a PCMIA card which will slot into the back of the set.*

## SEEING RED, GREEN AND BLUE

I hope you can help. Are there any devices currently available that will transfer an RGB signal into S-VHS?

**G Chandler**
**Swindon**

*What you need is basically a self-contained PAL decoder. I haven't been able to find one, perhaps because there's no call for them! Virtually every TV with a decent-sized screen has an RGB input facility, and everything I know which generates RGB outputs (primarily video disc players and some satellite transcoders) also offers S-video and composite outputs.*

*What do you need this converter for? Contact me again with details of the equipment in use and what you want to achieve, and maybe we can find another solution.*

# STOP WATCH

I have a problem with my seven-year-old Panasonic NV-FS88B S-VHS VCR. During operation, recording just stops randomly.

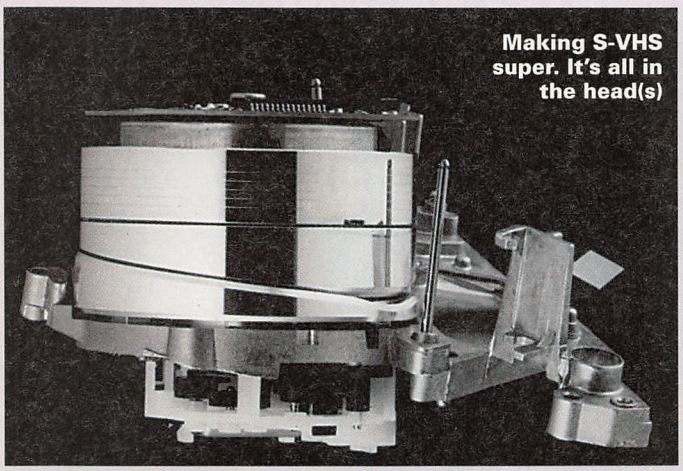
## TAPE TALK

Would you please explain two points concerning S-VHS?
1) Why is it not possible to play an S-VHS tape on an ordinary VHS machine, when it is possible to play a standard VHS tape on an S-VHS machine?
2) Why does S-VHS produce a superior picture to VHS? Can you translate the technical jargon about this into simple English I can understand?
**Mrs J Fletcher**
**Chelmsford**

*S-VHS pictures are superior, definition-wise, because the higher quality signal can display finer patterns on your TV screen. In addition to that, S-VHS circuits are designed to keep 'detail' and 'colour' signals separate, for a clearer image and less interference.*

*You can't play an S-VHS recording on a VHS machine because the frequencies used to carry the signal on an S-tape are higher than a standard VHS machine can cope with. The S-recorder uses a smaller magnetic gap in its video read/write heads.*

*As long as the electronic section is suitably switched, these small-gap heads can read and write standard VHS signals on and off tape. All available S-VHS machines have this switching.*



Making S-VHS super. It's all in the head(s)

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

I was wondering if you could help identify a gadget that's interfering with my TV and video. Loud clicks come from my TV when it is on or off, even when it's unplugged. I have traced this by elimination to the flat below, as there was no problem before the flat was occupied.
**J Rodd**
**Peterborough**

*There simply isn't a gadget which can interfere with a TV which is switched off and unplugged! I have noticed that as a TV set warms up in use or cools down after being switched off – and even unplugged – the expansion and contraction of the plastic cabinet causes a clicking effect as mini mechanical tensions build up and are spasmodically released. The same thing happens with my central heating radiators.*

*Why you should have noticed it only since your downstairs neighbours moved in is more difficult to explain. Maybe the ambient temperature in your flat has changed with their presence?*

## BEST OF BRITISH?

I recently bought a rear-projection TV, a Sony SP41S5. I have since seen the same TV but with a couple of differences. Firstly, the official UK model is KP41S4.

The second difference is the colour. Mine is silver, not the ordinary black finish. Is my TV a UK model? If not, where was it manufactured?

When I'm watching my TV visible red lines move horizontally whenever the screen goes blank – when changing channels or between adverts. Is this is a fault?
**Tahir Pachbhaya**
**Dundee**

*Both Sony models KP41S4 and KP41S5 were released in the UK: the crucial bit is the next suffix letter! If yours is 'U' it's a UK model, but any other letter denotes that it's designed for use elsewhere in Europe. Country of manufacture is a different thing altogether, it's the destination area that's important.*

*The moving red lines shouldn't be there! Try removing any Scart plugs. If the lines clear, try a better quality Scart lead. If not, or if you have no Scart connection, talk to the dealer from whom you bought the set – work under guarantee is its responsibility.*

On playback, the picture first starts to get noisy. This is followed by interference from horizontal noise bands. The picture drops to black and white, then the sound breaks up. The machine continues to record noise on the video and audio channels. Curiously, after about 15min, everything drifts back and recording continues normally.

Two years ago I took the unit into my local Panasonic agent for repair. It could find no fault. Strangely, three months after this first attempt to rectify the problem, the heads went! £300 later, with new heads, the problem still exists.

The VCR went back six months after new heads had been fitted, along with examples of the problem on tape. After two weeks of shop tests they could not reproduce the fault. Then it transpired that each night the mains were switched off.

It was trying to diagnose a problem without duplicating normal operating conditions. Like most (all?) users, I leave my VCR in standby unless it's being used.
**Alan Sanders**
**Warrington**

*This fault is not a common or well known one in this model. There are two possibilities for it: a cheap one in the 30V 'varicap' supply to the UHF tuner; and an expensive (and, I'm afraid, more likely) one in the tuner itself, which here incorporates a bus-controlled frequency-synthesis system and the vision/sound IF amplifiers and demodulators.*

*Maybe you should try another Panasonic service agent! If it confirms that the tuner is faulty, have them it to MCES of Manchester (☎ 0161 746 8037) about the possibility of a tuner repair rather than an expensive replacement. Yours is a good video deck, even as it passes into its eighth year* ❐

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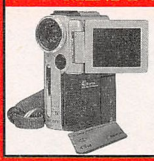

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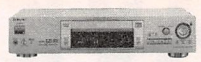

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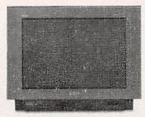

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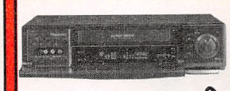

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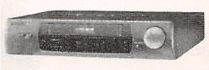

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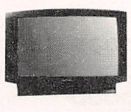

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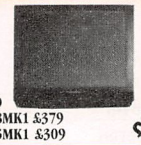

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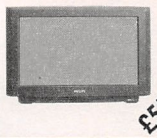

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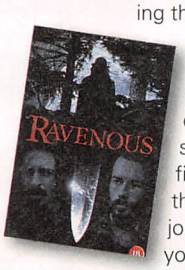
# VHS SCREENINGS

## RAVENOUS

**Presentation:** Fullscreen, Dolby Surround
**Rental**
**Movie:** An exquisite and bizarre film that manages to escape from the turmoil and confusion that surrounded its production and emerge as a true cult hit. Set in 1847, the story is centred around Captain John Boyd (Guy Pearce), a military man exiled to a desolate outpost located in the Sierra Nevada mountains.

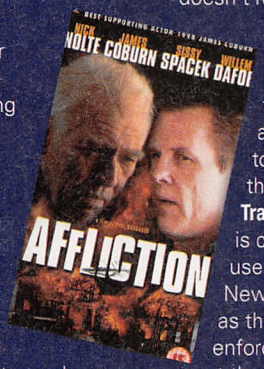
When the mysterious Colqhoun (Robert Carlyle) arrives at the fort, he drags the soldiers into a nightmarish world of cannibalism. Laced with black humour, this is a film which really deserves to find success.
**Transfer:** While the picture quality makes the most of the bleak, icy location footage, the most interesting thing here is the remarkable musical score by Michael Nyman and Damon Albarn, an eclectic and disturbing mixture of sounds which benefits the film immensely. Thankfully, this transfer does a superb job of bringing it all to life in your home. **AvB**




| | |
|---|---|
| Picture | ★★★★☆ |
| Sound | ★★★★★ |
| Movie | ★★★★☆ |
| Overall | ★★★★☆ |

## AFFLICTION

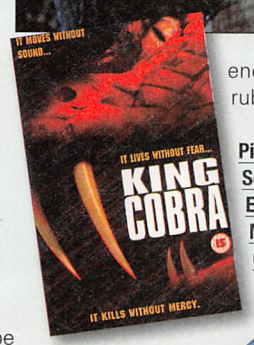
**Presentation:** Widescreen 1.85:1, stereo
**Price:** £15.99
**Movie:** This superior slice of Americana about the continuing effects of family dysfunction relies heavily on the central performances. Nick Nolte is superb as the splintering small town police officer separated from his wife and daughter and relying on assistance from men he doesn't respect.




Better still is James Coburn as his alcoholic brute of a father embittered by failure and old age. There's no real story to speak of but it's the thoughts that count.
**Transfer:** The transfer to VHS is crystal clear with effective use made of the snowbound New Hampshire locations, as the frigid landscape enforces the icy coldness at the story's heart.

## KING COBRA

**Presentation:** Fullscreen, stereo
**Rental**
**Movie:** This low-budget rip-off of *Anaconda* sees a cross-bred cobra/rattlesnake menace a small-town US beer festival. Having unaccountably grown to around 30ft in length, the snake hangs around in the woods picking off numerous idiots before Pat Morita turns up to kick its butt.




This film may be utter rubbish, but it's fun, and receives extra points for Erik (*CHIPS*) Estrada's homosexual cameo appearance. Better than *Anaconda* but worse than most.
**Transfer:** A rather dull movie, visually, receives a reasonably amiable transfer on this tape. Although the stereo soundtrack is little to shout about, the picture quality is surprisingly clear and detailed. Unfortunately, this doesn't benefit the giant snake, which simply ends up looking even more rubbery. **AvB**

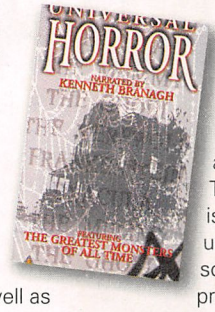
| | |
|---|---|
| Picture | ★★★☆☆ |
| Sound | ★★☆☆☆ |
| Extras | ★★☆☆☆ |
| Movie | ★★☆☆☆ |
| Overall | ★★☆☆☆ |

The soundtrack is evocative if understated. The only let-down is the voices, which are set back a little too far in the soundstage. **JS**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Picture** | ★★★★☆ |
| **Sound** | ★★★☆☆ |
| **Extras** | ★★★★☆ |
| **Movie** | ★★★★☆ |

# UNIVERSAL HORROR

**Presentation:** Fullscreen, stereo
**Price:** £9.99
**Movie:** This wonderful documentary charts the early years of the horror genre at the cinema, with specific attention paid to the output of Universal. Narrated by Kenneth Brannagh, the 95min running time crams in interviews with film-makers, stars and film historians, as well as providing generous amounts of archive footage.




Best of all is the inclusion of rare material including the original Two Color Technicolor ball sequence from the 1925 version of *Phantom Of The Opera*. Simply wonderful.

**Transfer:** The reams of archive material don't really represent the cutting edge of home viewing, however the transfer here does it all remarkable justice. The interview footage is clean and precise, if unexciting, and the stereo soundtrack (especially when presenting the original film scores) is superb. **AvB**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Picture** | ★★★☆☆ |
| **Sound** | ★★★☆☆ |
| **Movie** | ★★★★★ |
| **Overall** | ★★★★☆ |

# LATE AUGUST EARLY SEPTEMBER

**Presentation:** Widescreen 1.85:1, stereo
**Price:** £15.99
**Movie:** Adrien is a moderately successful terminally ill author, Gabriel a jobbing writer. Their paths, and those of various former and present lovers, cross and uncross in this episodic piece of Gallic navel-gazing.

Despite the lack of kinetic action the film offers a few interesting insights on the nature of life, love and the French way that make *Late August Early September* always watchable if never enthralling.
**Transfer:** The rather washed-out colours may have more to do with the director's wish to reinforce the bleak nature of modern existence for the average French intellectual than the poor transfer, but the palette is a little dull. A typically dialogue-led French piece, sound plays little part in the film, but the two-channel soundtrack portrays all the talking well enough. **JS**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Picture** | ★★★☆☆ |
| **Sound** | ★★☆☆☆ |
| **Movie** | ★★★☆☆ |
| **Overall** | ★★★☆☆ |

# DEAD MAN'S CURVE

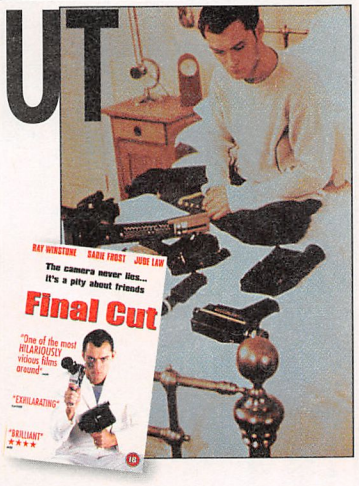
**Presentation:** Fullscreen, stereo
**Price:** £12.99
**Movie:** This quirky, Hitchcockian thriller takes as its basis the notion that if a student's room-mate commits suicide, the college will award said student straight As for the semester to help them get past their grief. Tim and Chris, two flat-mates desperate to get into Harvard, decide to murder their friend Rand and make it look like suicide to get those coveted grades.

However, when the body doesn't turn up and the friends turn on each other, things get even more complicated than expected. A sick but hilarious treat.
**Transfer:** The superb image quality (sadly cropped to 4:3 on this tape) is let down by a rather basic stereo audio mix. While there's nothing much on the soundtrack that would benefit from a remix, the ultimate experience is a little underwhelming. **AvB**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Picture** | ★★★★☆ |
| **Sound** | ★★☆☆☆ |
| **Movie** | ★★★★★ |
| **Overall** | ★★★★☆ |

# FINAL CUT

**Presentation:** Widescreen 1.85:1, Dolby Surround
**Rental**
**Movie:** This represents exactly what can go wrong when a film in search of profound insight simply goes too far up its own backside. A bunch of friends gather at a colleague's wake to watch a video he made of them covertly.




From then on, it merely trots out all of their clichéd secrets to no great effect. Even the attempts to blur the line between fiction and reality consist of nothing more than the actors using their real names, and annoying flashes of Jude Law as dead film-maker appearing on screen to make witty comments on what is happening. Inane and utterly boring.
**Transfer:** A fairly average transfer of a thoroughly uninteresting movie. The picture quality veers between dismal home video film and some rather soft-looking feature footage.

The soundstage is completely under-used, consisting of little more than a group of self-obsessed people talking with and/or shouting at each other. As lame as the film. **AvB**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Picture** | ★★★☆☆ |
| **Sound** | ★★☆☆☆ |
| **Movie** | ★☆☆☆☆ |
| **Overall** | ★★☆☆☆ |

# DVD SCREENINGS

## FAR AND AWAY

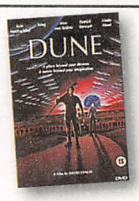
**Region:** 2 (PAL)
**Presentation:** Widescreen 2.35:1, anamorphic, Dolby Digital 5.1
**Price:** £19.99
**Movie:** Ron Howard's homage to his Irish ancestry casts husband-and-wife team Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman as Joseph and Shannon, Celtic immigrants seeking their fortunes in the US. Inevitably, the reality falls short of their dreams, Joseph ending up a bare-knuckle boxer while Shannon plucks chickens.

Although at 134min *Far And Away* is a tad overlong, it's surprisingly involving, especially during the boxing scenes and the land race. Featuring one of Cruise's better performances (apart from an occasional slip of the Oirish accent), this is an old-fashioned barnstormer of a film.
**Transfer:** Ninety-five per cent perfect. Both the brownish period hues and tawny vastness of Oklahoma are expertly reproduced. Edge detail is pin-sharp, and there's a total lack of digital compression nasties, except... In the early scenes, patches of black have a curious greenish tint. Perhaps it's an Irish thing.

The 5.1 soundtrack maintains the levels of excellence, with a visceral and exciting performance that places you at the heart of the action. Highlights include *The Big Fight* (C9) and *The Land Rush* (C13). Altogether an awesome package.
**Extras:** A reasonable clutch of supplementals includes production notes, cast and film-makers' biogs and theatrical trailer. **DR**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Picture** | ★★★★☆ |
| **Sound** | ★★★★★ |
| **Extras** | ★★★☆☆ |
| **Movie** | ★★★★☆ |
| **Overall** | ★★★★☆ |

## DUNE




**Region:** 2 (PAL)
**Presentation:** Widescreen 2.35:1, non-anamorphic, Dolby Digital 5.1
**Price:** £19.99
**Movie:** Frank Herbert's seminal sci-fi novel was brought to the big screen, bizarrely, by David Lynch. He plays it fairly straight, and ends up with a gloriously OTT movie – due more to the outlandish subject matter than his own directorial oddities. Set in 10,991, *Dune* details the battle between the Atreides and Harkonnen families to control production of melange, a consciousness-enhancing spice essential for galactic travel.

Huge, spaceship-swallowing sandworms, creepy witches, sexy rubber suits, a horribly overacting Sting, floaty aliens and mind-boggling sets all make for silly but satisfying fare.
**Transfer:** A strange mixture of the excellent and the risible. Excellent applies to the stunning, desert-sweeping aerial photography, gloomy castles and glittering galaxies, all of which look great. Risible refers to the nasty celluloid-derived flicker. Blame the print, not the transfer.

Aurally, the 5.1 soundtrack is first-rate. The many lines of dialogue are clearly audible, despite the high levels of ambient noise. Check out the worm caller's thumping resonance for a bassy treat (C10).
**Extras:** Dramatic animated menus lead to a slide show, theatrical trailer and DVD credits. Distributor Castle also provides a six-page booklet. **DR**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Picture** | ★★★☆☆ |
| **Sound** | ★★★★☆ |
| **Extras** | ★★★☆☆ |
| **Movie** | ★★★☆☆ |
| **Overall** | ★★★☆☆ |

## THE FRIGHTENERS

**Region:** 2 (PAL)
**Presentation:** Widescreen 2.35:1, non-anamorphic, Dolby Digital 5.1
**Price:** £19.99
**Movie:** An immensely enjoyable supernatural comedy by Peter (*Heavenly Creatures*) Jackson. It plays like a glossier version of *Beetle Juice* or *The Sixth Sense* re-imagined by Tex Avery, thanks to the swirling camerawork and quirky action.

Michael J Fox plays a psychic investigator with a twist. His operation is a scam but he really can see ghosts – they happen to be his cohorts in the scheme. That is until a wave of evil killings grips the town.
**Transfer:** A dark film, visually, but given a clean transfer that preserves its cool, icy-blue colour scheme. The effects are a

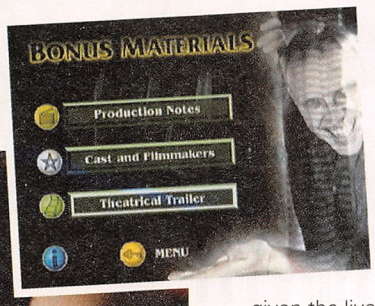
## DUMB AND DUMBER

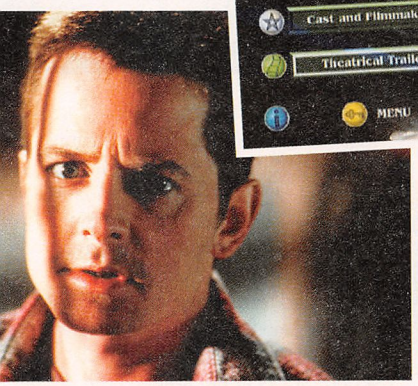
**Region:** 2 (PAL)
**Presentation:** Widescreen 1.85:1, anamorphic, Dolby Digital 2.0 (stereo)
**Price:** £19.99
**Movie:** Jim Carrey and Jeff Daniels play Harry and Lloyd, the two stupidest and most childish

fabulous mixture of make-up and CGI, one can probably put the freeze-frame/slow-mo functions to good use here. We'll mark the picture down from perfect due to the fact that it's not anamorphically enhanced.

Audio is a powerful effort, Danny Elfman's score bursts with energy and the sound is appropriately bombastic, with excellent use of spatial effects and low-frequency rumbles.

**Extras:** Production notes and biogs, several language/subtitle options and the original theatrical trailer but nothing of special note, which is unfortunate given the lively direction and lavish effects. **IC**



| | |
|---|---|
| **Picture** | ★★★★☆ |
| **Sound** | ★★★★☆ |
| **Extras** | ★★☆☆☆ |
| **Movie** | ★★★★☆ |
| **Overall** | ★★★☆☆ |

people on the planet, who trek across the US to return a briefcase to beautiful Lauren Holly. Entirely lacking in manners, common sense and social graces, the undynamic duo create havoc wherever they go.

Peppered with outlandish and vulgar gags the story is a complete nonsense, yet side-splittingly hysterical.

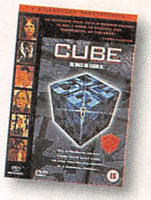
**Transfer:** Fine. Not really a cinematic masterpiece but the transfer is nonetheless clean and clear.

Audio is a meagre stereo, but you'll be laughing too much to notice the absence of surround effects.

**Extras:** A mediocre offering. Scene selection, German language alternative, cast biogs and publicity stills. **AJ**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Picture** | ★★★★☆ |
| **Sound** | ★★★☆☆ |
| **Extras** | ★★☆☆☆ |
| **Movie** | ★★★★☆ |
| **Overall** | ★★★☆☆ |

# CUBE




**Region:** 2 (PAL)
**Presentation:** Widescreen 1.85:1, non-anamorphic; Dolby Digital 2.0 (stereo)
**Price:** £19.99
**Movie:** A low-budget sci-fi gem from Canada that throws a cast of unknowns into a bizarre nightmare scenario. A group of people from different walks of life awake in a complex comprised of strange cubic rooms, some of which contain lethal booby traps.

Like the recent π (pi), it has a mathematical basis, but *Cube* looks more expensive than it was due to its inventive and cinematic use of sets and colour. *Cube* is a rare object of desire proving the sci-fi genre is in good shape.

**Transfer:** A lovely transfer that brings out the film's special colour scheme to full effect.

The sound is a standard stereo mix, but given that the film is largely dialogue-centred, this stripped-down and functional approach is fine.

**Extras:** Compared to the US version, the menus have been redesigned into an effective animated form. Unfortunately, some deleted scenes have been, er, deleted again!

The extensive storyboard and production sketches have also been scaled down, but the commentary (by the director, co-writer and lead actor) survives. **IC**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Picture** | ★★★★☆ |
| **Sound** | ★★★☆☆ |
| **Extras** | ★★★☆☆ |
| **Movie** | ★★★★☆ |
| **Overall** | ★★★★☆ |

# BELOVED

**Region:** 2 (PAL)
**Presentation:** Widescreen 1.85:1, anamorphic, Dolby Digital 5.1
**Price:** £15.99
**Movie:** Jonathan (*The Silence Of The Lambs*) Demme's adaptation of Toni Morrison's powerful novel is a searing indictment of racism and the incurable wounds of slavery. Sethe (Oprah Winfrey) lives in a house haunted by the ghost of her baby girl, whom Sethe murdered to keep her from slavery.

Into this bizarre world walks Paul D (Danny Glover), attempting to forge a normal life in paranormal circumstances. Mesmeric, disturbing and beautifully shot, but definitely not for the faint-hearted.

**Transfer:** Strangely, the image starts badly, with an artefact-filled grey sky, but improves drastically after Chapter 1. Demme paints a gorgeous cinematic picture, drenching his canvas in rich, luscious hues, none of which are tarnished by digital nasties (from C2 onwards).

*Beloved*'s haunting (sorry) score drifts through the soundstage like a wandering spirit. And the poltergeist's shrieks, thuds and rumblings are distributed liberally around the soundstage.

**Extras:** A typically stingy Buena Vista offering – just chapter/language /subtitle selection. **DR**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Picture** | ★★★☆☆ |
| **Sound** | ★★★★☆ |
| **Extras** | ★☆☆☆☆ |
| **Movie** | ★★★★☆ |
| **Overall** | ★★★☆☆ |

# HEAT AND DUST

**Region:** 2 (PAL)
**Presentation:** Widescreen 1.66:1, anamorphic, Dolby Digital 5.1
**Price:** £19.99
**Movie:** Merchant/Ivory gave us another in a long line of cinematic gems with their adaptation of Ruth Prawer Jhabvala's *Heat And Dust*. Seamlessly moving between England and India, the 1920s and the present, it follows Anne (Julie Christie) as she researches her great-aunt's scandalous story.

Caught up with the passion and sensuality of India, her experiences end up mirroring her forebear's. Pure period perfection.

**Transfer:** Retaining its original 1.66:1 aspect ratio, the transfer allows James Ivory's lustrous vision full, untarnished reign. The palette of vibrant, exotic colours has never looked better.

Very much a dialogue-led piece, the 5.1 soundtrack won't challenge your system, but then it's not that kind of film. Delicate rather than dambusting stuff.

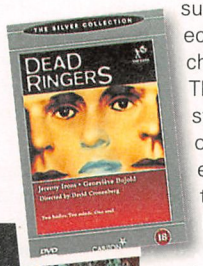
**Extras:** Theatrical trailer and an immensely irritating US-made *Merchant/Ivory Thirtieth Anniversary* promo. **DR**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Picture** | ★★★★☆ |
| **Sound** | ★★★☆☆ |
| **Extras** | ★★☆☆☆ |
| **Movie** | ★★★★☆ |
| **Overall** | ★★★☆☆ |

# DVD SCREENINGS

## DEAD RINGERS

**Region:** 2 (PAL)
**Presentation:** Widescreen 1.85:1, non-anamorphic, Dolby Digital 2.0 (stereo)
**Price:** £9.99
**Movie:** Jeremy Irons fans rejoice. David Cronenberg's morality tale of twin gynaecologists Beverly and Elliot casts Irons in both roles. He is, therefore, doubly superb, as is this clever, complex, harrowing film. A fine piece of cinema.



**Transfer:** Like *King Of New York*, *Dead Ringers* is part of Carlton's Silver Collection. But where the former's transfer is atrocious, this disc is superb. Despite the faintest patina of grain, the image is suitably cold and pristine, echoing Cronenberg's chilling vision.
The dialogue-heavy stereo soundtrack isn't one for the demo drawer, but that's not what this film is about.
**Extras:** Pleasingly animated menus only lead you to the usual setup options and a theatrical trailer. **DR**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Picture** | ★★★★☆ |
| **Sound** | ★★★☆☆ |
| **Extras** | ★★☆☆☆ |
| **Movie** | ★★★★☆ |
| **Overall** | ★★★☆☆ |

## SHOWGIRLS

**Region:** 2 (PAL)
**Presentation:** Widescreen 2.1:1, anamorphic, Dolby Digital 5.1
**Price:** £19.99
**Movie:** A kind of 18-rated *Cinderella*, *Showgirls* tells the rags-to-no-stitches story of a wannabe star (Elizabeth Berkley) who makes it big in the fickle world of Las Vegas nightlife as a stripper, lap-dancer and showgirl.

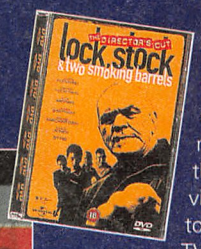
Though directed by *RoboCop* and *Starship Troopers*' Paul Verhoeven, the pic is missing his usual acidic social comment and rarely rises above its tacky subject matter. Blame scriptwriter Joe (*Basic Instinct*) Eszterhas for the ham-fisted plotting and laughable dialogue.

**Transfer:** As one of the Vegas sleaze-merchants says, the Vegas shows are 'dazzling, exciting and sexy,' and exactly the same could be said about the disc's picture quality, which is generally first-rate.
So too is the audio, which centres largely around a succession of energetic musical numbers and crowd atmosphere sound effects.
**Extras:** Very little on show here to get excited about: two versions of the trailer and a 'making-of' featurette that only clocks in at about 4min and is more like yet another trailer. **IC**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Picture** | ★★★★☆ |
| **Sound** | ★★★★☆ |
| **Extras** | ★☆☆☆☆ |
| **Movie** | ★★☆☆☆ |
| **Overall** | ★★★☆☆ |

## LOCK, STOCK AND TWO SMOKING BARRELS: THE DIRECTOR'S CUT

**Region:** 2 & 4 (PAL)
**Presentation:** Widescreen 16:9, anamorphic, Dolby Digital 5.1
**Price:** £17.99
**Movie:** The British crime genre gets an exuberant lease of life with Guy Ritchie's cinematically stunning caper. With this cinema/video hit set to become a TV series, the expanded director's cut is the ideal chance to revisit this modern classic.
Many scenes are new or just longer, and add to the film's edgy mix of explosive violence,



numbers (each is a chapter long).
**Transfer:** Although the image suffers slightly from damage to the original print, it easily passes muster. There's lots fast-motion action on display here, which causes no obvious problems. Bowie's tunes from hell apart, *Labyrinth* contains little soundstage excitement, so the stereo soundtrack is rather limited and aurally unengaging.
**Extras:** Theatrical trailer, cheesy '80s documentary (*Inside The Labyrinth*) and talent profiles. **DR**

## LABYRINTH

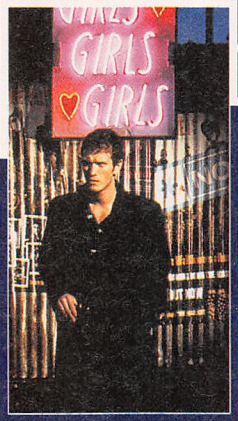
**Region:** 2 (PAL)
**Presentation:** Widescreen 2.35:1, non-anamorphic, Dolby Digital 2.0 (stereo)
**Price:** £19.99
**Movie:** Jim 'Muppet' Henson and Terry 'Python' Jones's fantasy fest is great fun. The thinly veiled excuse for Henson's puppet-related cleverness is Sarah's (Jennifer Connolly) bid to rescue her brother from the Goblin King's castle, after fighting her way through a tortuous labyrinth. David Bowie does an amusing turn as the Goblin King, and thanks to the wonders of DVD, you can skip all of his dirgy

| | |
|---|---|
| **Picture** | ★★★☆☆ |
| **Sound** | ★★☆☆☆ |
| **Extras** | ★★☆☆☆ |
| **Movie** | ★★★☆☆ |
| **Overall** | ★★★☆☆ |

## ROBOCOP 3

**Region:** 2 (PAL)
**Presentation:** Widescreen 16:9, anamorphic, Dolby Digital 2.0 (Pro-Logic)
**Price:** £19.99
**Movie:** Fred Dekker's more kiddie-friendly retread of the *RoboCop* films is the worst of the three films – a simplistic gung-ho adventure with heavy-handed morality ladled on top. Fans of the original will cringe as an orphaned moppet teams up with the metal hero (now played by Robert Burke).
**Transfer:** The sharp transfer is maybe too clear as it shows up some of the rather cheap and dated visual FX (again, worse than the original film), especially the flying sequence near the end. The film is only in Dolby Pro-Logic, but you can still get a powerful result from a decent sound system. A particular highlight is the score by Basil Poledouris. At least they got one thing right!
**Extras:** Next to nothing except for the trailer. For the original movie there's a fantastic US-made laser disc/DVD special edition of the director's cut by Criterion. **IC**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Picture** | ★★★★☆ |
| **Sound** | ★★★☆☆ |
| **Extras** | ★☆☆☆☆ |
| **Movie** | ★★☆☆☆ |
| **Overall** | ★★★☆☆ |




outrageous humour and sheer East End charisma.

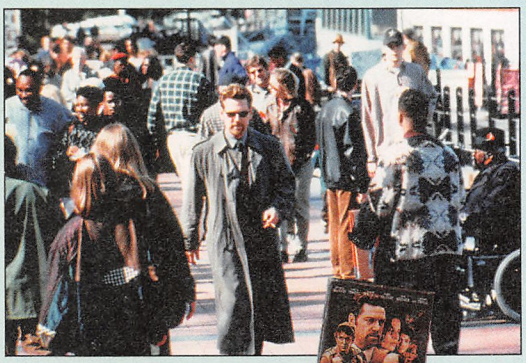
**Transfer:** Shot like an advert – but on a conspicuously limited budget – this is a first-rate transfer that makes the film shine like it never did on VHS or even in some cinemas (some prints had a horrible yellow tint not present here).

Audio is dominated by the incredibly cool Northern Soul soundtrack and the occasional burst of gunfire, all handled equally well. For the record, this release did not show any obvious sign of the lip-sync errors that dogged the original DVD.

**Extras:** There's very little as separate extra features (basically only the trailer), though between five and 10 minutes of footage is new to this cut, although it has been edited back into the movie rather than presented in isolation. The accompanying booklet is quite informative (and even pinpoints the significant new scenes), but the movie is crying out for a cast/crew commentary. It'll still shift a few van-loads, and it deserves to. **IC**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Picture** | ★★★★☆ |
| **Sound** | ★★★★☆ |
| **Extras** | ★★☆☆☆ |
| **Movie** | ★★★★☆ |
| **Overall** | ★★★★☆ |

# THE GINGERBREAD MAN



**Region:** 2 (PAL)
**Presentation:** Widescreen 1.85:1, anamorphic, Dolby Digital
**Price:** £17.99
**Movie:** Not Robert Altman's most inspiring piece of work but nonetheless a competent romp through John Grisham country. From the moment Kenneth Branagh's Southern US lawyer is seduced by a waitress (Embeth Davidtz) you just know he's being set up.

But watching the movie unfold is enjoyable enough as Brannagh delivers a surprisingly unirritating performance as the shmuck who looks set to lose everything for a nice piece of ass. Robert Duvall and Robert Downey Jr provide strong support.

**Transfer:** Very impressive. The stormy backdrop, which is central to the atmosphere of danger and tension, is wonderfully captured. Muted colours, gloomy rooms and incessant wind and rain all provide a useful workout for any home cinema setup.

**Extras:** Pathetic. Nothing save scene, language and subtitle selection. **AJ**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Picture** | ★★★★★ |
| **Sound** | ★★★★☆ |
| **Extras** | ★☆☆☆☆ |
| **Movie** | ★★★☆☆ |
| **Overall** | ★★★☆☆ |

# KING OF NEW YORK

**Region:** 2 (PAL)
**Presentation:** Fullscreen, Dolby Digital 2.0 (stereo)
**Price:** £9.99
**Movie:** Abel *Driller Killer* Ferrara isn't renowned for the subtlety of his direction. And so it goes with *King Of New York*, which sacrifices social insight and character development for an orgy of coke, guns and violence. Christopher Walken does his softly spoken psycho schtick, and is rather wasted, as are Larry Fishburne, Wesley Snipes and Steve Buscemi.

Annoyingly, the original cinematic aspect ratio has been discarded for an artificial 4:3 frame. Naughty, naughty Carlton.

**Transfer:** Strangely, the picture quality starts off horribly, with hideous levels of grain and flicker, but subsequently improves to an acceptable level. Go figure. The artificially imposed 4:3 aspect ratio doesn't help matters.

The two-channel soundtrack is passable. At least the expletive-strewn dialogue and barrage of gunshots are clearly reproduced, as are the thumping hip-hop score.

**Extras:** An animated menu allows access to language/subtitle selection and a theatrical trailer. **DR**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Picture** | ★☆☆☆☆ |
| **Sound** | ★★★☆☆ |
| **Extras** | ★★☆☆☆ |
| **Movie** | ★★★☆☆ |
| **Overall** | ★★☆☆☆ |

# DEEP RISING

**Region:** 2 (PAL)
**Presentation:** Widescreen 2.35:1, anamorphic, Dolby Digital 3.0 (Pro-Logic)
**Price:** £15.99
**Movie:** A souped-up B-movie that resembles *Tremors* on a ship with much less wit. The plot oversteps the line into stupidity too often but the action is fast and inventive despite the derivative, generic nature of the plot. Director Stephen Sommers went on to remake *The Mummy*, and this is much the same monster mash with drops of humour, though on a less lavish scale.

**Transfer:** A wishy-washy picture that has far more grain for a modern movie than expected. It's possibly something added inadvertently during the transfer stage. Technically it holds-up otherwise (no bad digital blocking, smearing, etc) but it still looks worse than the restored 25-year-old version of *Taxi Driver*.

Audio too has been badly messed up. A perfectly good Dolby Digital 5.1 mix has been lost overboard and all that survives here is a murky Dolby Surround version.

**Extras:** Nothing but the usual trailer and short studio-backed making-of PR puff. On our test setup, the scene selection menu only went halfway through the film before breaking down. A real damp squib. **IC**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Picture** | ★★★☆☆ |
| **Sound** | ★★☆☆☆ |
| **Extras** | ★☆☆☆☆ |
| **Movie** | ★★☆☆☆ |
| **Overall** | ★★☆☆☆ |

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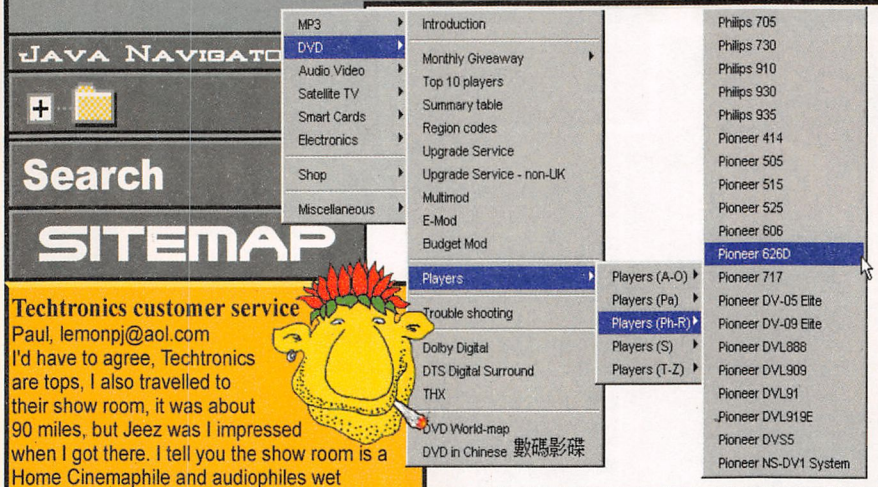

**Techtronics customer service**
Paul, lemonpj@aol.com
I'd have to agree, Techtronics are tops, I also travelled to their show room, it was about 90 miles, but Jeez was I impressed when I got there. I tell you the show room is a Home Cinemaphile and audiophiles wet dream... I was treated to a demo in their mini theatre, River Wild DTS, awesome I can tell you. I'm just trying to think of another excuse to go again, but I know if I do I'll spend a bloody fortune. If anyone does go there, you will need a map because it is literally in the middle of nowhere, but you'll be glad you did.

**Great turnaround**
*Simon, host5-99-48-114.btinternet.com*
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*Steve Broster,* Stellenstar@tesco.net
Techtronics are the cream off my pussy's milk... I think we're talking about a company that cares...

**Multimod for Samsung 709**
*Len Foster, bushwakka@bushwakka.demon.co.uk*
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*Pete Jeanes, pete.brum@virgin.net*
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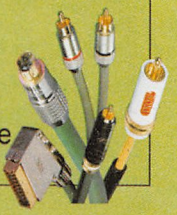

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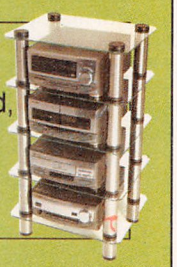

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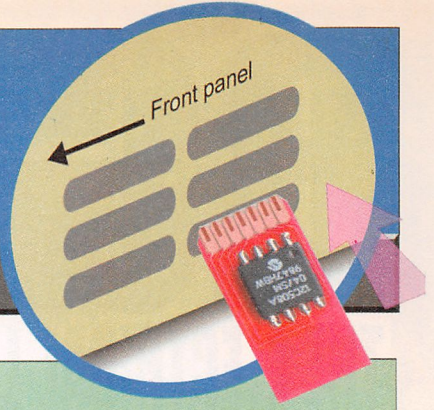


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| DVD Players | Top 10 | Regions | VCR Mode | Price (inc. VAT) |
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| Denon 2500 | . | 1-6 | Yes | £499 |
| Panasonic A160 | 2 | 1-6 | Yes | £299 |
| Panasonic A360 | 4 | 1-6 | Yes | £449 |
| Panasonic L-10 | . | 1-2 | No | £939 |
| Panasonic L-50 | 10 | 1-6 | No | £799 |
| Philips 710 | . | 1-6 | No | £299 |
| Pioneer DVD-525 | 1 | 1-6 | Yes | £299 |
| Pioneer DV-626D | 5 | 1-6 | Yes | £399 |
| Pioneer DVD-717 | 6 | 1-6 | Yes | £449 |
| Pioneer DVL-919E | . | 1-6 | Yes | £799 |
| Pioneer DVS-5 | . | 1-6 | Yes | £599 |
| Pioneer LC10 portable | 9 | 1-6 | Yes | £1099 |
| Pioneer NS-DV1 System | . | 1-6 | Yes | £1189 |
| Samsung 709 | 3 | 1-6 | Yes | £249 |
| Samsung 909 | . | 1-6 | yes | £379 |
| Sony DVP-CX850D | . | 1-6 | Yes | £549 |
| Sony DVP-S325 | . | 1-6 | Yes | £299 |
| Sony DVP-S525D | . | 1-6 | Yes | £375 |
| Sony DVP-S530D | . | 1-6 | Yes | £399 |
| Sony DVP-S550D | . | 1-6 | Yes | £419 |
| Sony DVP-S725D | 8 | 1-6 | Yes | £525 |
| Sony DVP-S7700 | . | 1-6 | Yes | £659 |
| Sony PBD-V30 Discman | . | 1-4 | No | £539 |
| Toshiba 2109 | 7 | 1-6 | Yes | £299 |
| Toshiba 3109 | . | 1-6 | Yes | £359 |
| Toshiba SD9000 | . | 1-6 | Yes | £575 |
| Yamaha S-795 | . | 1-6 | Yes | £479 |

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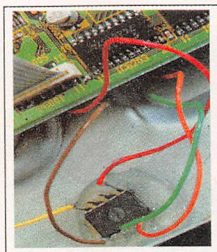

WHAT HI-FI?

"..instead of going for a code-free player, the new trick is to add extra codes.
..you can then select the code you need by remote control... And it works.
None of our discs, not even the 'awkward' titles such as Con Air and Tomorrow Never Dies, caused the slightest problem. Which means at a stroke your available movie catalogue is vastly expanded..."
page 59, Sep 1998

## Shinco DVD8320 plays MP3 Coming soon... £199!!

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## multi-region FAQ

**1 Why should I be bothered with Region 1 titles?**
Region 2 titles currently (Oct 99) only total 850, while Region 1 is approaching 5000. In many cases, Region 1 titles also offer extra features, are generally cheaper, and available much earlier.

**2 Can all players be upgraded with Multimod?**
No. Multimods are available for most popular models, but not every model. We currently hold the biggest list of upgradable players in the world.

**3 What is VCR Mode?**
VCR Mode is essential to eliminate possible interference Macrovision may have on your projection TV, as well as allowing the DVD player to be connected to the TV via a VCR, without distorting the picture.

**4 How do I switch regions on a player modified with the Multimod?**
The most common way is: Put the player on Standby. Press a digit (eg. 1 for Region 1). Turn player on. And some multimods, the regional change is built into the menu system.

**5 How difficult is it to solder a Multimod DIY kit?**
Depends on the model of the player. Some are relatively easy, with only a few pins, while others may require explicit SMD skills and tools. More details on our website.

**6 Are all Techtronics mod chips the same?**
No. E-Mod is in a class of its own, since it is externally inserted and requires no soldering. This is by far the most elegant multi-region solution, and only works for most Pioneer models. On the other end of the spectrum, Sony Budget Mod represents a stripped-down, bare-bone, no-frills version of the Standard Multimod.

**7 How does Multimod fare compared to other mod chips like the Paragon Hack?**
- ☒ Paragon does not offer E-Mod
- ☒ In the case of most Sony Models, only Multimod allows you to skip(FF) FBI warning
- ☒ It is much easier to switch regions with Multimod
- ☒ Multimod will not disable parental control
- ☒ In many cases, only Multimod offers both "manual" and "auto" regional switch
- ☒ In many cases, only Multimod offers VCR Mode

**8 Is it true that "D-MOD" requires no chip modification?**
Absolute garbage. The so-called "D-MOD" is a hoax. It is a silly attempt to cash in on Techtronics' E-Mod.

**9 I have heard reports of certain mod chips disabling RGB output. Does the Multimod do this?**
No. None of our Multimod or E-Mod will disable RGB output or other features in the player.

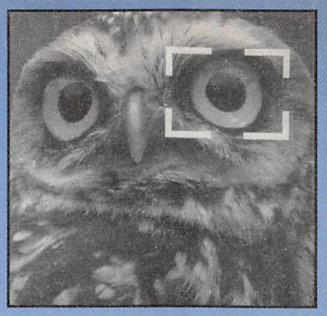
**10 How can the E-Mod not void the original manufacturer's warranty?**
Because unplugged the E-Mod will return an upgraded player to its VIRGIN state (single region, without VCR Mode) without any trace of any modification.

# RGB

## THE ELECTRICAL LEADERS

PHILIPS TOSHIBA DVD VIDEO Panasonic SONY

Multi region available



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- Dynamic Head Down
- Insert Edit, Audio dub
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S-VHS

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- 2.5" LCD • 3 CCD

Also Available: DX100B*
PC Software available

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*B stands for UK Model

**SONY DCR-TRV110**
- Digital: Digital 8
- 2.5" LCD Screen
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- Steady Shot

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- 43" Widescreen
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DIGITAL
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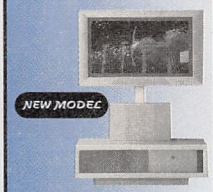


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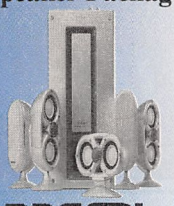


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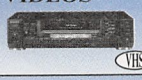

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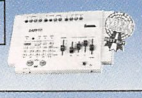

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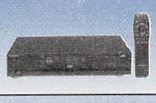
## SONY DVP-S525



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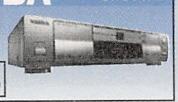

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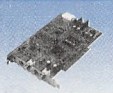

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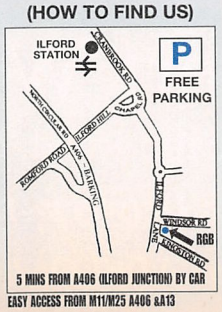


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*(Undercover Reporter, Video Camera Aug '99)*

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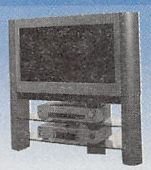

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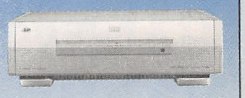

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* EK STANDS FOR UK MODEL

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| Sony 32FX60 | £PHONE | Panasonic TX32DT2 | £PHONE |
| Sony 28FX60 | £PHONE | Panasonic TX28DT2 | £PHONE |
| Sony 32DS20 | £PHONE | Panasonic TX32PK1 | £PHONE |
| Sony 28DS20 | £PHONE | Panasonic TX28PK1 | £PHONE |
| Sony 32FX20 | £PHONE | Panasonic TX32PK2 | £PHONE |
| Sony 28FX20 | £PHONE | Panasonic TX28PK2 | £PHONE |
| Toshiba 32ZD98B | £PHONE | Toshiba 28ZD98B | £PHONE |
| Toshiba 32WD98B | £PHONE | Toshiba 28WD98B | £PHONE |

## DVD Players

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|---|---|
| Sony DVP-S525 | £PHONE |
| Sony DVP-S725 | £PHONE |
| Sony DVP-S7700 | £PHONE |
| Toshiba SD-2109 | £PHONE |
| Toshiba SD-3109 | £PHONE |
| Toshiba SD-9000 | £PHONE |
| Panasonic DVD A160 | £PHONE |
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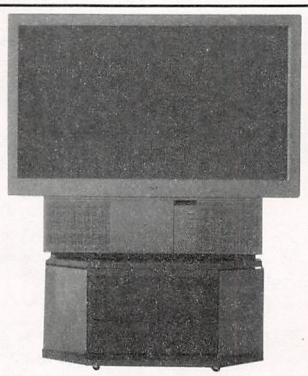
## Rear Projection TV



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| Sony KP41DS1 | £PHONE |
| Sony KL372 | £PHONE |
| Sony KL50W2 | £PHONE |
| Panasonic TX47PT1 | £PHONE |
| Toshiba 40PW8DB | £PHONE |
| Toshiba 43PJ93B | £PHONE |
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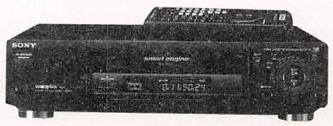

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| Panasonic NVHD685 | £PHONE |
| Panasonic NVHD900 | £PHONE |
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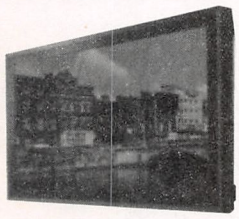
## Plasma Screens



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|---|---|
| Panasonic TC42PDI | £PHONE |
| Panasonic TC37PDI | £PHONE |
| Pioneer PDP-502MX | £PHONE |
| Pioneer PDP-V402E | £PHONE |
| Sony PFM500A2W | £PHONE |
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**Sony VPL-W400 Demonstration Model**
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| Sony TA-E9000 | £PHONE |
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(What Video, Feb)

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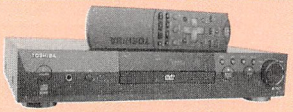
### HITACHI DVP250

Multi-region player

EE £269.99

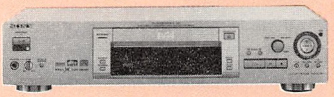
### TOSHIBA SD2109



Region 2 or multi region

EE £249.99

### SONY DVPS725



Multi region in stock

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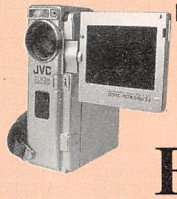
## DIGITAL CAMCORDERS–DIGITAL CAMCORDERS

### JVC GR-DVX4



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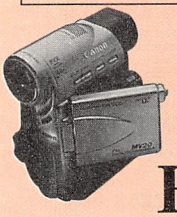
EE £POA

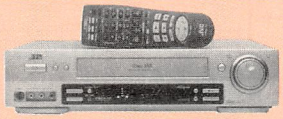
### CANON MV20



EE £749.99

## VIDEO RECORDERS–VIDEO RECORDERS

### JVC HRS7600



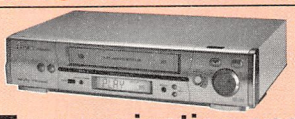
Super VHS Video

EE £239.99

### SONY SLVSF99

EE £315

### HITACHI VT FX880



Tape navigation and commercial skip

EE £229

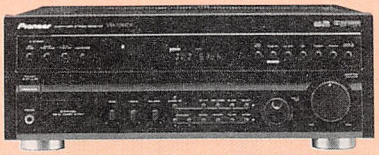
## HOME CINEMA–HOME CINEMA–HOME CINEMA

### SONY STRDB930

Dolby digital receiver

EE £POA

### PIONEER VSX908RDS



EE £POA

### MARANTZ SR5000

Dolby digital receiver (available in store only)

EE £POA

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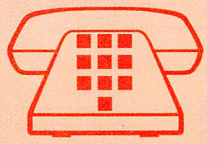

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- SDB HAVE BEEN ADVERTISING WITH WHAT VIDEO GROUP FOR OVER 15 YEARS
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## DVD PLAYERS

### Panasonic DVDA160
AC-3/DTS DVD

SDB £249.00

*Superb 2nd generation player replaces highly acclaimed DVDA100. High quality 20-bit audio quality. Can be modified for multi-region.*

### Panasonic DVDA360
PAL/NTSC AC3/DTS Player

SDB £399.00

*High specification 3rd generation player, features include 96khz/24 bit audio DAC, built-in 5.1 decoder RGB/Pal 60 output & much more. CAN BE MODIFIED FOR MULTI REGION.*

### Panasonic DVDL50
Lightweight Portable DVD

SDB £699.00

*Superb 2nd generation portable Reg. 2 PAL/NTSC DVD Player. Features include 5" improved screen, DTS output, built-in recharger and more! Can be fully modified for Multi-Region*
TAILOR-MADE CASE AVAILABLE.....£39.95

### PIONEER PDV-LC10
Portable DVD Presenter

SDB £899.00

*Superb new ultra-flat/slim portable DVD, features include 6" viewing screen, Dolby Digital DTS, 200 minutes playback time with supplied battery.*

### TOSHIBA SD-2109
AC3/DTS PAL/NTSC Player

SDB £259.00

*Excellent value superb-spec. Player with AC3/DTS outputs can be modified for Multi Region.*

### TOSHIBA SD-3109
Twin/2-Tray PAL/NTSC Player

SDB £349.00

*Superb value unique 2-tray player, hi-quality CD Audio,coupled with smooth sound from AC3/DTS built-in 6-Channel Decoder. CAN BE FULLY MODIFIED FOR MULTI-REGION*

### TOSHIBA SD-9000
AC3/DTS High Specification Player

SDB £499.00

*Extremely High-Specification Player, features 3D DNR, Anti-Shock Base, Dolby Digital Decoder, & much more, Champagne Gold only. Can be fully modified for multi-region.*

### PIONEER DVD525
PAL/NTSC AC3/DTS Player

SDB £269.00

*Superb 3rd generation Player. Can be fully modified for MULTI REGION.*

### PIONEER DV-626
PAL/NTSC PLAYER

SDB £359.00

*New model, features higher speci. than DV525, incorporates built in Dolby Digital Decoder, AC3/DTS, superb value.*
*CAN BE FULLY MODIFIED FOR REGS 1-6.*

### PIONEER DV-717
AC-3/DTS DVD

SDB £449.00

*Prestige player, features DTS output, coupled with hi-quality pictures and 24-bit DA converter for CD/Audio*

### PIONEER DVL919

SDB £699.00

*"The best of both" Superb AC-3 Combo Player defines Hi-quality picture with awesome AC-3 sound quality. CAN BE MODIFIED FOR FULL MULTI-REGION.*
***Also available RF-D1 De-modulator £99.00***

## DVD PLAYERS

### SONY DVPS7700
Ultra-prestige/ES DVD Player

SDB £599.00

*Superb very high specification AC3/DTS player, upgraded model to highly renowned DVPS715 - Champagne Gold Only, can be fully modified for regs 1-6*

### SONY DVPS725
PAL/NTSC Player

SDB £449.00

*Superb specification AC3/DTs player, features include, built-in decoder, magic-pad on screen menu, 96khz/24 bit audio – CAN BE FULLY MODIFIED FOR MULTI-REGION. ALSO AVAILABLE IN SILVER REG/2 1499*

### SONY DVPS525/DVPS325
PAL/NTSC Players

DVPS525..£359.00
DVPS325..£299.00

*Superb value based players, feature AC3/DTS Output, magic-pad on-screen menu and superb pictures and sound. DVPS525 features built-in AC3 Decoder. – CAN BE MODIFIED FOR MULTI-REGION.*

### SONY PBDV30
Portable/Miniature-size PAL/NTSC DVD

SDB£499.00

*Superb ultra-compact reg 2 player. Ideally suited to be used with GLASSTRON.*

### SONY DVPCX850
DVD Multi-Changer

SBD £599.00

*Wonderful new Innovation, features PAL/NTSC region 2 playback, AC3/DTS output, and will hold/play 200 DVD/CD/VCD Discs!*

### SONY DVPF11
DVD Ultra-Compact Player

SBD..£449.00

*Superb ultra compact PAL/NTSC player, AC3/DTS output, plays horizontally or vertical standing*

## DOLBY DIGITAL AMPLIFIERS AND PROCESSORS

### SONY STRDB930/830
AC3/DTS Receivers

STRDB930 . . . . .£399.00
STRDB830 . . . . .£349.00

*High-spec receivers featuring AC3/DTS processing, RDS tuner 100w x5 output, STRDB930 with digital cinema sound 2-way remote.*

### SONY STRDA50ES Receiver

SDB £599.00

*Breathtaking up-market receiver combines 5.1 AC-3/Dolby Digital with DTS Processing for DTS DVD/LD, hi-power 100W x5. Full remote controllable via LCD-Touch Screen Panel.*
***ALSO AVAILABLE IN CHAMPAGNE GOLD £699.00***

### SONY TAE9000ES/TAN9000ES
ES/Ultra-Prestige Pre/Power Amp System AC3/DTS

TAE9000 PRE . . .£899.00
POWER TAN9000. £799.00

*The ultimate in SONY AC3/DTS amplification, power amp delivers 5 x 130 w, multiple a/v inputs on pre amp with unique SONY touch panel learning remote, **Gold finish only***

### YAMAHA SWT300
Hi-Power Active Sub

SDB £279.00

*Superb sub, bursting with power, a superb choice for any home-cinema set up!*

### YAMAHA SWT160
Power Sub

SDB £229.00

*Great value, great spec. sub replacement of highly recommended SWT150*

### Technics SCDV150
Dolby Digital Hi-Fi/DVD

SDB £849.00

*Superb sophisticated complete Hi-Fi system, comprises 4 components 100W x2, 320W combined DPL output, 5 DVD/CD changer with AC3 processing.*

## DVD/AMP CLEARANCE BARGAINS

Denon AVR3200 AC 3 Amp .....£449.00

### YAMAHA DSPA595A
Dolby Digital High Power Amp

SDB £279.00

*Budget spec. Hi-power Dolby Digital Amp from one of the world's best makers of A/V amps.*

### YAMAHA RXV795A
RDS DTS/AC3 HI-Power Receiver

SDB £399.00

*Excellent Hi-spec receiver combines Hi-power multiple A/V inputs and sheer brilliance of sound quality delivered by AC3/DTS.*

### YAMAHA DSPA1 AC 3/DTS
Dolby Digital Amplifier

SDB £999.00

*Superb AC 3/DTS combination Dolby Digital amp. Bustling with power, many DSP modes. Couples with the smoothness of Dolby Digital Sound quality from AC.3DTS.*
***ALSO AVAILABLE IN CHAMPAGNE GOLD £1,299.00***

### YAMAHA DSPA2 AC 3/DTS
Amplifier

SDB £649.00

*Hi-spec amp, specification similar to DSPA1 with AC3 Dolby Digital/DTS processing, full 7-channel separation, hi-power output!*
***Also available in Champagne gold…£799.00***

### DENON NEW AMPS
For 99/2000

AVR2800 . .£499.00
AVR3300 . .£699.00

***Also available in gold…£799.00***

### DENON AVCA1D
Ultimate Supremo THX/AC-3 DTS Dolby Digital Amplifier

SDB £1599.00

*"The ultimate in Home Cinema Amplification". Full THX/AC-3 DTS compatibility delivers breath taking sound realism with awesome power driven by 5.1 amplifiers. Full function learning remote and finished in a sleek gold metallic finish. **Also available in black, £1,699***

### PIONEER VSX808RDS
AC3/DTS Amplifier

SDB £299.00

*Superb value based Dolby Digital Amplfier. Features include hi-power output, 100W x5, 10x DSP modes, pre-in/out, 4x digital inputs & much more!*

### PIONEER VSX908
AC3/DTS Amplifier

SDB £649.00

*Superb hi-specification, features Dolby Digital/DTS Processing, THX, Power 110w x5, supplied with smart/learning remote headset. **AVAILABLE IN BLACK/GOLD***

### PIONEER VSAE07
AC3/DTS Hi-Power Amplifier

SDB £999.00

*Superb hi-power amp, features 5x 130W output, THX Ultra, supplied with Exquisite LCD Touch-Panel Remote Control*

### SHARP VIDEO PROJECTOR

XVC20E
PROJECTOR .£1,499.00

XVC1 . . . . . .£899.00

### TOSHIBA WIDESCREEN TELEVISIONS

32WD98…£999.00
32ZD98…£1399.00

*Superb Highly Recommended Widescreen Televisions, ultra-flat screens with Dolby Digital sound quality.*

### Panasonic TX32PF10/TX36PF10
100Hz Super-Flat Widescreen

TX32PF10 . .£1099.00
TX36PF10 . .£1799.00

*Superb ultra-flat widescreen for '99, features include 100Hz Digital scan, high precision deflection, and superb all-round viewing angle. Special effects include picture-in-picture **Continental export version available.***

### Panasonic TX47PT1
47" Mammoth NEW Widescreen Projection

SDB £2499.00

*Superb highly recommended projection features 100Hz digital scan, Dolby Pro-Logic picture in picture & full multi standard capabilities.*
***Continental export version available.***

## HOME THEATRE TELEVISION

### SONY KV32FD1/KV28FD1
100Hz Trinitron Wega 32" Widescreen

KV32FD1 . .£1999.00
KV28FD1 . .£1499.00

*"The flattest best most lifelike widescreen picture on the market!" **EXPORT VERSIONS ALSO AVAILABLE – PLEASE ENQUIRE***

### SONY KV32FC60Z/KV28FC60Z
NEW "DESIGNER"
32"/28" Widescreen Televisions

KV32FC60 £1599.00
KV28FC60 £1199.00

*Elegant new 32"/28" widescreen televisions with 100Hz picture scanning. **Continental export version available.***

### SONY KV32FX60/KV28FX60
Widescreen Triniton Wega

KV32FX60 £1099.00
KV28FX60 .£849.00

*Budget-priced Wega televisions with 100Hz picture, scanning, multiple a/v inputs & much more. CONTINENTAL/EXPORT VERSION OF 32FX60. **ALSO AVAILABLE £1199.00.***
***ALSO AVAILABLE KV32DS60/KV28DS60 Intergrated/Digital £1699.00/£1399.00***

### SONY KV28FX20/KV32FX20
50HZ Budget-Wega Widescreen

KV28FX20 .£599.00
KV32FX20 .£899.00

*Excellent spec. WEGA televisions, features as KV28/32 FX60 with 50HZ Picture scanning – stunning lifelike pictures, excellent value!! **MULTI STANDARD EXPORT VERSIONS AVAILABLE PLEASE ENQUIRE.***
***ALSO AVAILABLE KV28DX20/KV32DX20 £899.00/£1299.00.***

### SONY KV24WX1
24" Widescreen

SDB £419.00

*Great spec. easy to accomodate 24" widescreen, superb value at just £449.00!!*
***CONTINENTAL EXPORT VERSIONS ALSO AVAILABLE – PLEASE ENQUIRE.***

### SONY KV29FX20/KV29FX60
29" 4:3 Triniton Wega

KV29FX20 . . . . .£499.00
KV29FX60 . . . . .£699.00

*Superb specification Wega televisions, ultra-flat screen gives large viewing angle coupled with breathtaking lifelike features, Wega televisions are unrivalled in picture & performance. **KV29FX60 with 100Hz picture scanning.***
*EXPORT MODELS ALSO AVAILABLE – PLEASE ENQUIRE*

### SONY KL50W2/2

SDB £2799.00
***ALSO AVAILABLE KL50W2 Ex-Display £2499.00***

*Superb Widescreen Rear Projection TV. Real Mammoth Viewing, excellent picture & sound quality.*
***Continental export version available.***
***KL37W2 £1650.00***

## GADGETS

### SONY RMAV2000T
Multi-Functional LCD Remote

SDB £129.00

*Beautiful, elegant, ultra-sleek learning remote control, 12 component function, LCD touch panel, a great gadget and a totally affordable price!*

### SONY PLMA55/GLASSTRON
Virtual LCD-Display

*Virtual cinema reality from a pair of specs. Marvel the wonder of this superb new gadget from Sony. Also available higher spec PLMS700. £1199.00.*

SDB £599.00

### SONY MDRDS5000
Dolby digital headphones

SDB £299.00

*World's first Virtual Dolby Digital headphone system, Dolby digital decoder with infra-red transmitter, connection to DVD for full blown Dolby Digital separation.*

### SONY "Pascal"SAE705
5-Speaker Designer Speakers

SDB £459.00

*Beautifully carved designed 5-speaker system, comprises of 5 satellite speakers, active sub, finished in silver*

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## 8mm/Hi8 PALMCORDERS

### SONY CCD-TR425
8mm Palmcorder
SDB £269.00

Great value/great spec. home/family palmcorder, extensive features include 72x zoom, Nightshot, Remote, Special Effect, Titling, Optional High Stamina Battery & Much More – ***TERRIFIC VALUE!!***

### SONY CCD-TR515
Hi8 Palmcorder
SDB £319.00

*Superb value-based Hi8 model, feautures include 72x zoom, steady shot, built in light! Nightshot/0-lux, remote special effects and much more!*

### SONY CCD-TR713/CCD-TR913
Hi8 Palmcorders
CCD-TR713...£369.00
CCD-TR913...£399.00

*Excellent hi-specification Hi-8 models features include hi-power zooms, built in light, steady shot, laser link, remote titling, special effects, CCD-TR913 with 360x zoom, Time Base Corrector and Picture Noise Reduction.*

### SONY CCDTRV27
8mm Palmcorder with pull-out 2.5" Colour/Screen
SDB £359.00

*Great value new palmcorder, features include 72x zoom, 0-lux/night-shot, remote special effects, lithium Ion battery & much more – **EXCEPTIONAL VALUE!!***

### SONY CCD-TRV36/CCD-TRV46
Hi8 Palmcorders with 2.5" Flip-out Screen
CCD-TRV36...£399.00
CCD-TRV46...£449.00

*Excellent new Hi8 palmcorders, feauture, 72x zoom, nightshot/o-lux, built in video light, remote, special effects and much more, **TRV46 with STEADY SHOT***

### SONY CCD-TRV66
Hi8 Palmcorder with 2.5" LCD/Screen
SDB £489.00

*Palmcorder features, 80x zoom, image stabiliser, built-in light/o-lux nightshot, remote effect, and time base correction with super digital noise reduction, a superb highly recommended camcorder for the enthusiast.*

### Canon UC8000/UC9500
8mm Palmcorders
UC8000 .....£289.00
UC9500 .....£349.00

*Excellent value-based 8mm palmcorders, features include, 440x digital zoom, image stabiliser (UC9500 only), built-in video light, special effects, remote, titling and much more! **UC9500 WITH COLOUR VIEWFINDER***

### Panasonic NVRX14, NVRX24, NVRX64
Excellent Dynamic Trio of VHS.C Palmcorders
NVRX14 .....£299.00
NVRX24 .....£349.00
NVRX64 .....£399.00

*Excellent value based home/family palmcorders features include, powerful zooms, remote titling. Special effects long run battery life. Anti-ground shooting, motion sensor & much more!*

### Panasonic NVVX24, NVVX44, NVVX54
VHS.C Slimvision palmcorders with Hi quality colour flip-out screen
NVVX24 . . . . .£399.00
NVVX44 . . . . .£449.00
NVVX54 . . . . .£499.00

*"NEW EXCEPTIONAL VHS-C PALMCORDERS WITH Flip-Out Screen. Extensive features include, powerful zooms, remote control, titling, special effects, low-light operation & much more". **NVVX44 WITH IMAGE STABILISER & NVVX54 WITH 3" SCREEN PICTURE-IN-PICTURE & 300x ZOOM".***

### SONY EVC-400
Hi8 Rec/Playback Deck
SDB £319.00

*Superb easy-to-use Hi8 rec/playback deck works with any video scource, ideal for duplicating 8mm/Hi8 recordings or simply saves wear/tear on Hi8/8mm Camcorders.*

### SONY EVC2000E
SDB £549.00

*Hi8 Editing VCR, Jog Shutter, RCTC Recognition, Lanc, Stereo.*

### SONY GVA500 Hi8
Video Walkman/Presenter
SDB £699.00

*Exciting unique new Hi8 Video Walkman. Combines hi-quality Hi8/8mm record and playback. all finely detailed on precision 4" LCD colour screen. Packed with essential features including: Lithimion battery technology. Optional laser link connection all encased in ultra lightweight design weighing only 300g.*
***Also available TGV100 TV tuner £199.00***

## JVC DIGITAL CAMCORDERS

### JVC DV
Budget-Palmcorders
GRDVL30 .....£549.00
GRDVL40 .....£599.00

*Superb trio of Palmcorders, features include, 2.5, 3 & 3 & 3.5" flip out LCD screens, 160x digital zoom, special effects, colour viewfinder, remote image stabiliser, dv/still picture output & much more – TERRIFIC VALUE!!*

### JVC GRDVX4/GRDVX7
Digital Palmcorders
GRDVX4 .....£799.00
GRVDX7 .....£899.00

*Superb compact palmcorders supplied with full PC connection kit for paint processing, editing and down-loading still images, camcorders features include 100x zoom, image stabiliser, built-in flash, remote, special effects & much more!*

### JVC GRDVL9500/9600
DV Palmcorders
GRDVL9500 .....£899.00
GRDVL9600 .....£1099.00

*Excellent hi-spec. palmcorders, extensive features include 100x zoom,remote, special effects, large 4" pull-out screen, supplied with full PC kit.*
***DVL9600 with full firewire/DV.***

### Canon DM-MV200
DV Palmcorder
SDB £599.00

*Exceptional value DV Palmcorder, features include 2.5" LCD screen, 320x digital zoom, colour viewfinder, special effects, remote & much more.*

### Canon DMMV20 DV
SDB £749.00

*Beautifully designed ultra-compact 'upright' palmcorder, features include, 48x zoom, image stabiliser, 2.5" flip-out screen special effects, dv out & much more! **SUPERB VALUE.***

### Canon DM-XL1
Digital 3CCD Camcorder
SDB £2299.00

*Exceptional pro camcorder with superb features including hi-quality 3CCD interchangeable lens, DV line in, image stabiliser, manual record levels & much more. A must for the pro-enthusiast.*

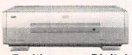
### Canon DM-XM1
New 3CCD Digital
SDB £1499

*Superb new revoletionary pro based 3CCD Digital camcorder, features include DV In/out, flourite lens, 20x optical zoom, optical imagestabiliser, wealth of manual over-rides.*

### JVC HRS7600/8600/9600
S-VHS VCR'S
HRS6600 £259.00
HRS7600 £279.00
HRS8600 £399.00
HRS9600 £479.00

*Superb new value based, S-VHS VCR-S, both combing hi-quality pictures & sound, Dynamic Drum System allowing noise-free picture playback/seach.*

### JVC HM-DR1000
World's First D-VHS
SDB £1099.00



*Exciting new Digital Video Recorder format includes MPEG2 CODEC for hi-quality images and sound DV Digital-to-Digital recording & more.*

## SONY VIDEO ACCESSORIES

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| DCCL50 DC ADAPTOR | £59.95 | ACVQ800 INDEPENDENT MULTI PURPOSE CHARGER | £129.00 |
| ECHMHSI MIC | £69.99 | DCQ800 DC VERSION OF ABOVE | £129.00 |
| ECMS300C STEREO MIC | £89.95 | ACVQ11 QUICK INFO CHARGER FOR PC1/2/3 | £129.00 |
| VCL0030 TELE LENS FOR PC1 | £69.95 | DCVF10 DC INFO CHARGER FOR PC1/2/3 | £129.00 |
| VCL0637 WIDE LENS FOR 37MM CAMS | £49.95 | LCHTRV900 ALUMINIUM CASE FOR TRV890/900 | £179.00 |
| HVLS3D 3W VIDEO LIGHT | £39.95 | MEMORY STICKS 4MB/8MB/16MB/32MB/64MB | £19.95/£29.95/£39.95/£69.95/£119.95 |
| NPA10000 BATTERY BOX | £79.95 | HVLIRH2 NIGHTSHOT LIGHT WITH 3W | £69.95 |
| HVL20DW2 20W LIGHT | £89.95 | HVLIRC NIGHTSHOT LIGHT | £69.95 |
| IFTR10 LASER LINK | £49.95 | HVL100C LIGHT FOR PC1/2/3 | £59.95 |
| SPKTRC SPORTS HOUSING | £159.95 | HVLFDH3 VIDEO LIGHT 3W/FLASH | £99.00 |
| SPKDVF HOUSING FOR TRV7/9 | £169.00 | MSAC-CP2 LAP TOP ADAPTOR | £59.00 |
| SPKPC2 HOUSING FOR DCRPC1/2/3 | £199.00 | MSAC-FD1A FLOPPY DRIVE ADAPTOR | £69.00 |
| DVBK2000E CAPTURE BOARD | £249.00 | | |
| DVBKCW200 CAPTURE BOARD/ LAPTOP | £249.00 | | |
| PHDA55E MEMORY STICK PHOTO FRAME | £599.00 | | |
| BCV615 STANDARD AC CHARGER | £39.95 | | |

### Panasonic NVMPD5/NVMPD7
Digital Video Printer
NVMPD5 .....£349.00
NVMPD7 .....£399.00

*Excellent Hi-Quality Printer. Ideally compatible with Panasonic range of DV Camcorders or Digital still Cameras.*

## Panasonic DIGITAL CAMCORDERS

### Panasonic NV-DS8
DV BUDGET PALMCORDER
SDB £499.00

*Superb value for money DV Palmcorder, features include, 20x zoom. Special effects. Image stabiliser & much more!*

### Panasonic NV-DS11
Digital Compact Palmcorder
SDB £549.00

*Unbelievably great value DV Palmcorder, features include, 2.5" LCD Pull Out Screen, 20x Optical Zoom/400x Digital, Special Effects Image Stabiliser, Photo Shot Mode & Much More. – OPTIONAL PC SOFTWARE AVAILABLE FOR PRINTING DIGITAL STILLS.*

### Panasonic NV-EX3
Slim DV Palmcorder
SDB £799.00

*Exquisite compact-dv palmcorder, possible the smallest lightest DV palmcorder in the world, features include 12x zoom, special effects, pull-out screen and progressive photo-shot.*

### Panasonic NVDS33
Digital Palmcorder
SDB £749.00

*Superb ultra-compact, ultra-light-weight Digital Palmcorder, features include 10x zoom, Special Effects, digital photo shot & much more!*

### Panasonic NVDS99
Mini-DV Palmcorder
SDB £849.00

*Ultra-compact Mini-DV palmcorder, features include 100x zoom, image stabiliser, progressive photoshot for ultra high still images, 3.8" LCD flip-out screen & much more!!*

### Panasonic NV-DX110
3CCD Digital Camcorder
SDB £1099.00

*Truly exciting semi-pro 3 CCD Palmcorder. Hi-specification including, 24 x Zoom, Image Stabiliser, Precise Colour Viewfinder, Hi-quality 2.5'' LCD fold out screen, Digital Still capture facility, Special effects & much more. NVDX110 with factory fitted DV/Line In.*

### Panasonic NV-DV10000
DV VCR Recorder/Player
SDB £1399.00

*Exceptional DV Recorder/Player, takes full size/min dv tapes, features include, wireless remote, assemble/insert editing, audio dubbing firewire in/out, five pin editing terminal and much more.*

### JVC HRDVS1
DV/S-VHS DECK
SDB £1099.00

*Revolutionary DV Deck features DV Playback/S-VHS/VHS Record. Features include 2-way Firewire, synchro editing, random assemble editing, insert editing, audio dubbing, special effects & much more!*

### Panasonic NVHS850/NVHS950
S-SVHS VCR's
NVHS850.....£399.00
NVHS950.....£449.00

*Excellent Hi-Specification S-VHS VCR's, extensive features include, hi-quality picture/sound, jog/shuttle, 5-pin Edit Terminal, on-screen display, and NVHS950 with Time Base Corrector*

### Panasonic NVM50/NVMS5
VHS/S-VHS Full Size Camcorders
NVM50 . . . . . .£799.00
NVMS5 . . . . . .£899.00

*Original VHS/S-VHS Camcorders, features include 12x zoom, special effects, manual over-rides & much more. Ideal for Commercial/Educational Videography.*

### Panasonic WJAVE55/WJMX20
Digital Video Mixers
WJAVE55 . . . . .£699.00
WJMX20 . . . . .£999.00

*Superb creative video mixers, multiple audio/video inputs, over 200 wipe/effect patterns, chroma key colour correction, time base correction & much more!*

## SONY DIGITAL CAMCORDERS

### SONY DCRTR7000
Digital 8
SDB £499.00

*Digital format combines excellent picture & sound quality/comparable to Digital DV, with versatility of accepting Hi8 tapes allowing playback of previously recorded 8mm/Hi8 tapes, camera features include 20x zoom, nightshot 0 lux, colour viewfinder, remote, special effects and much more, ideal for Home/Enthusiasts use!*

### SONY DCRTRV110/ CCDTRV310
Digital 8
CCDTRV110....£549.00
CCDTRV310....£659.00

*Excellent new Digital format, use Hi8 tapes and benefit from DV standard picture/sound quality on this superb new format. Camera features include hi-quality pull-out LCD/Screens, remote control, special effects, photo frame mode, 20x zoom, Image stabiliser & much more, **CCDTRV310 with 3.5" LCD Screen.***

### SONY DCRTRV510
Digital 8
SDB £799.00

*Features as DCRTRV310 with 4"LCD Screen, Colour viewfinder, 2mb flash memory & PC application kit supplied.*

### SONY DCRPC2/DCRPC3
DV-Pamcorders
DCRPC2 . . . .£849.00
DCRPC3 . . . .£999.00

*Excellent new spec compact palmcorders, features include Carl Zeiss Lens, 40x zoom, 2.5" LCD pull-out screens, 0-lux nightshot, special effects & much more. **DCRPC3 with Sony Memory Stick, CD-Rom & full PC Connection Kit.***

### SONY DCRPC100
DV
SDB £1199.00

*Hi-Specification DV Palmcorder, features include, 2.5" Pull-out Screen, 0-Lux Nightshot, Carl Zeiss Lens & much more!*

### SONY DCRTRV8/DCRTRV10
DV Palmcorders with 3.5" LCD-Screens
DCRTRV8 . . . .£799.00
DCRTRV10 . . .£899.00

*Superb hi-spec. models feature CARL ZEISS lens 40x zoom, steady shot, colour viewfinder, 0-lux nightshot, special effects & much more. DCRTRV10 SUPPLIED WITH FULL PC MEMORY STICK FOR EASY PC CONNECTABILITY*

### SONY DCRTRV900
Compact 3 CCD DV Palmcorder
SDB £1449.00

*Superb 3 CCD compact/lightweight DV palmcorders, extensive features include 48x zoom image stabiliser, hi-quality 3.5" flip out screen, 16 bit digital sound, visual effects, laser link & much more! **DCRTRV900 with firewire/DV-analog input***

## DIGITAL VIDEO RECORDERS

### SONY GV-D300/GV-D900
DV/Digital Video Walkman Presenters
GV-D300 . . . .£849.00
GV-D900 . . .£1249.00

*Highly innovative, long awaited mini-DV rec/playback units, DV in/out, portable size, weight only 600g, info lithium battery operation, lazer link, remote control and 16-bit digital sound quality, ideal for loss-free DV dubs and saves wear/tear on DV camcorder. **GVD900 INCORPORATES 5.5" VIEWING SCREEN***

### SONY DCRVX1000
3CCD Palmcorder
SDB £2099.00

*Superb pro-based industry recognised DV Palmcorder.*
***– ALSO AVAILABLE FULL-SIZE DCRVX9000 – £2,599.00***

### SONY DHR1000
Digital VCR
SDB £1799.00
(PAL/EURO-VERSION)

*Full size recording deck with firewire dv in/out, accepts both full/mini DV, detachable editing control console, full editing facilities, tv tuner and much more!!*

## SONY DV CAM

### SONY DSR-PD1
Mini DV-CAM
SDB £1499.00

*Ultra compact DV Cam broadcast standard camcorder, very high quality pictures using DV Cam compression, excellent useable features include 20x zoom, Image stabiliser, precise colour viewfinder + dedicated DV line in for DV line in recording.*

### SONY DSR200AP
DV Cam Professional Camcorder
SDB £3000.00 + VAT

*Broadcast specification camcorder features DV Hi-compression. Gives over 550 lines resolution, full 184 minutes recording using DV Cam tape. Full flexible manual over-rides and much more.*

### SONY DSRPD100AP
3CCD DV-Cam
SDB £1800.00 + VAT

*Hi-specification near-broadcast compact DV-Cam/Camcorder, extensive features include, dv in/out, analogue in/out, 3.5" colour viewing screen, special effects, time code, tbc, zebra zone & much more. Very lightweight only 900g.*

### SONY DSRV10P
DV-Cam Presenter
SDB £1550.00 + VAT

*Ideal companion for presenting DV Cam recordings in the field, totally portable & leightweight also allows dv-in recordings for dv-cam/consumer dv.*



SDB SDB SDB SDB SDB SDB SDB SDB

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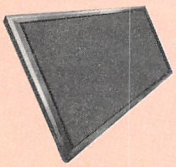

- 50" Plasma
- Widescreen

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### DENON AVR 3300

- Dolby Digital
- DTS
- 5x 105W
- 32 Bit DSP Processor

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### ROTEL RSP985

- THX ULTRA DECODER
- AC-3
- DTS
- 2 ZONE OUTPUT

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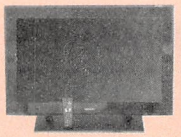
### PANASONIC NVHS900B

- S-VHS
- Video Plus/PDC
- Jog Shuttle
- Front AV

WAS £500
SAVE £100

£399

### THOMSON 42WS90E WYSIUS TV



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### YAMAHA DSPA595a

- AC3 Amp

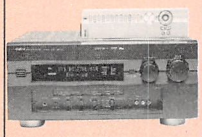
£SALE

### HARMAN KARDON AVR65

AC3 Receiver
DTS
WAS £700
SAVE £200

£499

### YAMAHA DSP-A-1



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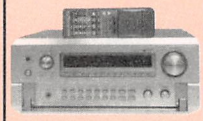

- AC3
- DTS

RRP £2000

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- Centre Speaker

Also Available
100C, 90C,
95C, 80C

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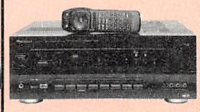
### PIONEER VSX808



- AC3/DTS
- 5X 60W
- RDS Receiver

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### SAMSUNG CI593CN

- 25" Nicam

RRP £???

SAVE £???

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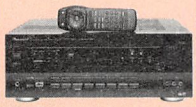
### PIONEER VSX708



- AC3/DTS
- RDS Receiver

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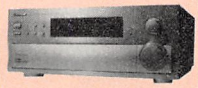
### PIONEER VSAE07



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- THX

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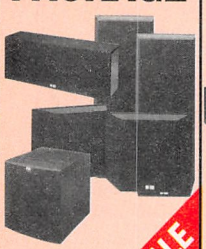

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### DENON AVR1800

- AC3/DTS
- 5x 60w
- RDS Receiver

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### ROTEL RB 985

5 Channel
THX Power Amp

- 5x 100w RMS
- Ex-display

WAS £749
SAVE £250

£499

### JVC HR-S6600

BEST BUY

- SVHS VCR

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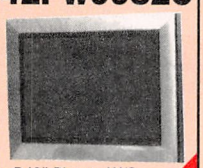

- D42" Plasma W/S
- VGA Input
- Pro-Logic sound

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### DENON AVR 2800

- AC3/DTS
- 5x 85w
- RDS Receiver

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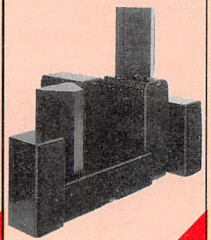
### POLK

RT3000P/CS1000P/
FX1000P



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- Dolby Digital
- THX
- 5X 130W
- Touch Panel remote

**WAS £1299**

NOW £569 EXCLUSIVE SCOOP!

## ROTEL RM B1095

- 5x 200w RMS
- THX Power amp (Pic not exact)

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## ACOUSTIC ENERGY SPEAKER SYSTEM

- AE-108S Sub Woofer
- AE-107C Centre Speaker
- AE-100 Satellite Speakers

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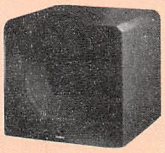
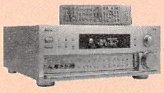


- Subwoofer
- 70w RMS
- Ex display

**WAS £400**

HALF PRICE £200

## PIONEER VSX 908 RDS



- 5x 110w
- THX ULTRA
- Receiver
- AC3/DTS

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## KEF MODEL 30B

Also Available 20B

**RRP £500**

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|---|---|
| KL-37W1 | POA |
| KL-50W1 | POA |
| VIDEO | |
| SLV-E720 | POA |
| SLV-E820 | POA |
| SLV-E920 | POA |
| SLV-T2000 | POA |
| DHR-1000UX | POA |
| SL-AV100 | POA |
| EVC-400 | POA |
| EVC-2000 | POA |
| EVC-9000 | POA |

**TANNOY**

| | |
|---|---|
| MERCURY M1 | POA |
| MERCURY M2.5 | POA |
| MERCURY M3 | POA |
| MERCURY MR | POA |
| MERCURY MC | POA |
| MERCURY MM | POA |
| MERCURY MSUB10 | POA |
| REVOLUTION R1 | POA |
| REVOLUTION R2 | POA |
| REVOLUTION R3 | POA |
| SATURN S6 | POA |
| SATURN S8 | POA |
| SATURN S10 | POA |
| SATURN S6C | POA |
| SATURN S8C | POA |
| D-300 | POA |
| D-500 | POA |
| D-700 | POA |
| S-900 | POA |
| D-750 | POA |
| STIRLING | POA |
| TURNBERRY HE | POA |
| EDINBURGH HE | POA |
| GRFM HE | POA |
| CANTERBURY HE | POA |
| WESTMINSTER ROYAL | POA |
| KINGDOM 15 | POA |
| KINGDOM | POA |

**TEAC**

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**TECHNICS**

| | |
|---|---|
| SA-AX530 | POA |
| SA-AX730 | POA |
| SA-AX930 | POA |
| SA-AX6 | POA |
| SA-AX7 | POA |

**THOMSON**

| WIDESCREEN | |
|---|---|
| 60DXC-68U | POA |
| 70DXC-68U | POA |
| 81DXC-69DLU | POA |
| PROJECTOR | |
| RP 52UK | POA |
| TV | |
| 55 MK-48U | POA |
| 25 DT-63H | POA |
| 63 MK-69DU | POA |
| 72 MK-89DU | POA |
| VIDEO | |
| VPH2557 | POA |
| VPH6557 | POA |
| VPH6697 | POA |

**TOSHIBA**

| TELEVISION | |
|---|---|
| 2173DB | POA |
| 2573DB | POA |
| 2873DB | POA |
| 2550TB | POA |
| 2987DB | POA |
| 3387DB | POA |
| 3787DB | POA |
| WIDESCREEN TV | |
| 28MW7DB | POA |
| 28W8DB | POA |
| 28W93DB | POA |
| 28WD98B | POA |
| 32MW7DB | POA |
| 32W8DB | POA |
| 32WD98DB | POA |
| 32ZD98DB | POA |
| PROJECTOR TV | |
| 40PW8DB | POA |
| 43PJ93B | POA |
| 48PJ6DB | POA |
| 50PJ98B | POA |
| 56PW8DB | POA |
| 61PJ98B | POA |
| DVD PLAYERS | |
| SD2109 | POA |
| SD3109 | POA |
| SD9000 | POA |
| VIDEO RECORDERS | |
| V226B | POA |
| V229B | POA |
| V429B | POA |
| V709B | POA |
| V729B | POA |
| V859B | POA |

**YAMAHA**

| | |
|---|---|
| DSP-A492 | POA |
| DSP-A592 | POA |
| RX-V392 | POA |
| RX-V592 | POA |
| DSP-E492 | POA |
| YST-SW40 | POA |
| YST-SW80 | POA |
| YST-SW150 | POA |
| YST-SW300 | POA |

## YAMAHA YSTW300

- Active subwoofer
- 12" Driver
- 185W RMS output

**RRP £350**

## KEF Q35

Also Available Q15, Q55, Q65, Q75

**RRP £350**

## JBL L-CENTRE

- Centre Speaker
- 2 Way
- 150w RMS

**RRP £500**

£249

# YAMAHA

## YAMAHA DSP-A1

- DOLBY DIGITAL
- DTS
- 7 CHANNEL HIGH POWER OUTPUT
- 5 x 110w + 2 x 35w

£SALE

## YAMAHA DSP-A2

- DOLBY DIGITAL
- DTS
- 7 CHANNEL HIGH POWER OUTPUT
- 5 x 100w + 2 x 25w

£SALE

## YAMAHA RXV-795aRDS

- DOLBY DIGITAL
- DTS
- 5 x 85w
- RECEIVER WITH RDS

£SALE

## YAMAHA RXV595aRDS

- DOLBY DIGITAL
- DTS
- 5 x 70w
- RECEIVER WITH RDS

£SALE

## YAMAHA DSPA595a

- DOLBY DIGITAL
- DTS
- 5 x 70w

£SALE

## YAMAHA DVD-S795

- DOLBY DIGITAL DECODER
- 96KHz, 24 BIT DAC
- OPTICAL AND COAXIAL OUTPUTS

£SALE

## YAMAHA RX-V395RDS

- DOLBY PROLOGIC
- 5 x 60w
- RECEIVER WITH RDS

£SALE

## YAMAHA YST-SW300

- SUBWOOFER
- 18-170Hz (-10dB)
- 185w
- AUTO STANDBY

£SALE

## YAMAHA YST-SW160

- SUBWOOFER
- 20-160Hz (-10dB)
- 150w
- AUTO STANDBY

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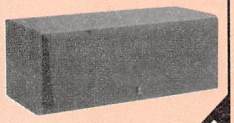
## YAMAHA YST-SW90

- SUBWOOFER
- 23-170Hz (-10dB)
- 100w
- AUTO STANDBY

£SALE

## YAMAHA NS-C150 NS-C105 NS-C103 NS-C300



- CENTRE SPEAKER

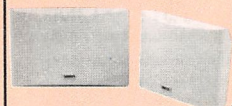
£SALE

## YAMAHA YST-SW45

- SUBWOOFER
- 30-200Hz (-10dB)
- 70w
- AUTO STANDBY

£SALE

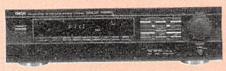
## YAMAHA NS-E105 NS-E103



- EFFECT SPEAKERS

£SALE

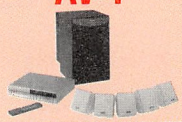
## YAMAHA DSP-E492



- MAKES ANY RECEIVER OR AMPLIFIER READY FOR DOLBY DIGITAL OR DTS
- DOLBY PROLOGIC

£SALE

## YAMAHA AV-1



- HOME CINEMA AMPLIFIER
- 5 SPEAKERS + SUBWOOFER
- DOLBY PROLOGIC
- 5 x 30w

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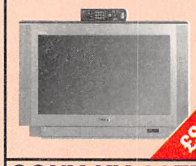
# SONY

## AUTHORISED DEALER

### SONY KV-28FX20
- Pure flat
- 28" Wide Screen
- **Also Available: KV-32FX20**

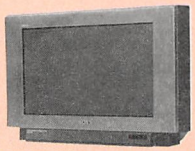


£SALE

### SONY KV-29X5
- 29" FST Screen
- Nicam
- Fastext
- On-Screen Menu
- Same features
- **Also Available: KV25X5**

£SALE

### SONY KV32FX60
- 32" • 100Hz • Front AV
- Also Available KV32DS60 DV28FX60



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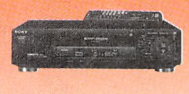
### SONY KV-32FC60Z
32" Widescreen
### SONY KV-28FC60Z
28" Widescreen
- Art Couture
- Pure Flat Picture
- 100Hz
- Nicam

£SALE

### SONY SLV-E930UX


- 4 Head • Nicam • Jog Shuttle
- Insert Edit/Audio Dub
- Video Plus/PDC
- NTSC Playback

£SALE

### SONY SLV-SF90UX

- 4 Head • Nicam • Front AV
- Smartfile Generator
- Video Plus/PDC
- NTSC Playback

£SALE

### SONY KV-32FD1
- 37" Total flat screen
- 100Hz
- PAL/PNS

ALSO AVAILABLE KV-28FD1

£LOWEST PRICE IN THE UK

### SONY KP53-S4
- 53in Projection TV
- Picture in Picture
- 100Hz

- **Also KP-46S4**

£SALE

### SONY KV32WF1 KV28WF1

- KV32WF1 32"
- KV28WF1 28"
- Widescreen • Nicam

£SALE

### SONY SLV-SF99UX

- As SLV-SF90UX
- Plus
- Smart Set Box Control
- Audio Dub

£SALE

### SONY STR-DA50
- ES Amplifier
- Dolby Digital
- DTS
- 6 Channel input
- Touch Panel

£SALE

### SONY KV-32DS60
32" Widescreen
### SONY KV-28DS60
28" Widescreen

- On Digital Tuner
- Pure Flat
- 100Hz with Digital Comb Filter
- Dolby Prologic
- 50w RMS Output

£SALE

| TV | | WIDESCREEN | | VIDEO | | | | | AV AMPLIFIERS | TA-N9000ES |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| KV-21X5 | KP-4154 | KV-24WX1 | KV-28FX60 | SLV-SE20 | SLV-E930 | CCD-TR913 | DCR-PC2 | | STR-DE135 | |
| KV-25X5 | KP-4654 | KV-28WF1 | KV-32FX60 | SLV-SE30 | SLV-E1000 | CCD-TRV27 | DCR-PC3 | | STR-DE235 | DVD PLAYERS |
| KV-29X5 | KP-5354 | KV-32WF1 | KV-28FD1 | SLV-SE45 | SLV-T2000 | CCD-TRV36 | DCR-TRV8 | | STR-DE435 | DVP-S7700 |
| KV-29FX20 | KV-14V5 | KV-28WS2 | KV-32FD1 | SLV-SE70 | | CCD-TRV46 | DCR-TRV10 | | STR-DB830 | DVP-S725 |
| KV-29FX60 | KV-14V6 | KV-32WS2 | KL-37W2 | SLV-SE80 | CAMCORDERS | CCD-TRV66 | DCR-TRV890 | | STR-DB930 | DVP-S525 |
| | KV-21V6 | KV-28FX20 | KL-50W2 | SLV-E850 | CCD-TR425 | DCR-TR7000 | DCR-TRV900 | | STR-DA50ES | DVP-S325 |
| | | KV-32FX20 | KV-28DS60 | SLV-F900 | CCD-TR515 | DCR-TRV110 | DCR-VX1000 | | TA-E9000ES | PVB-30 |
| | | | KV-32DS60 | SLV-F990 | CCD-TR713 | DCR-TRV310 | DCR-VX9000 | | | |
| | | | | | | DCR-TRV510 | | | | |

### SONY SLV-T2000

- Combination Long Play VHS/Hi8 Double Deck
- 4-Head Nicam Hi-Fi Stereo
- Front AV
- VideoPlus/PDC

£SALE

### SONY STR-DB930

- AV Reciever
- DTS
- AC3
- 5x100 watts per channel
- RDS

£LOWEST PRICE IN THE UK

### SONY KV29FX11 FX29/FX20

- 29" FD Trinitron

£SALE

### SONY KV-32DS20
32" Widescreen
### SONY KV-28DS20
28" Widescreen
- On Digital Tuner
- Pure Flat
- Dolby Prologic

£SALE

### SONY KV-32DX20
32" Widescreen
### SONY KV-28DX20
28" Widescreen

- On Digital Tuner
- Pure Flat
- Nicam

£SALE

### SONY DCR-PC3 £1045
### DCR-PC2 £889

- DV
- 2.5" LCD Screen
- Nightshot 0 Lux
- 40x Digital Zoom
- Memory Stick (DCR-PC3 only)

£SALE

### SONY KP-41S4

- 41"
- Rear Projection
- Nicam Stereo
- Digital Combfilter

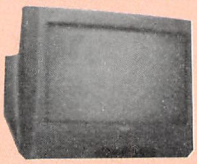
£1199

### SONY SLV-E930

- 4-Head Nicam Video Recorder
- NTSC Playback • VideoPlus and PDC
- Front AV • Audio Dub/Insert Edit
- Jog/Shuttle
- W/Screen Recording

£SALE

### SONY KV24WX1



- 24" Widescreen
- Nicam (pic not exact)

£SALE

### SONY TA-N9000ES

- Top End ES Pre-Amp
- Dolby Digital
- DTS
- Touch Panel LCD Remote

£SALE

### SONY TA-E9000ES

- Top End ES Power Amp
- 5x 130w

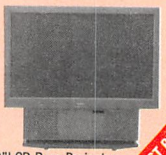
£SALE

### SONY STR-DB830

- Receiver
- Dolby Digital
- DTS
- 4x 100w

£SALE

### SONY KL50W2 KL37W2



- 50"LCD Rear Projector

£LOWEST PRICE IN THE UK

### SONY SLV-E70

- 4-Head Nicam Video Recorder
- NTSC Playback
- VideoPlus and PDC
- Widescreen Recording

£SALE

### SONY KV28WS2 KV32WS2

- KV 28WS2 28"
- KV 32WS2 32"
- Widescreen
- Dolby Prologic

£SALE

### SONY KP-41DS1

- 41" Rear Projector
- On Digital Decoder
- Nicam
- NTSC Playback Via Scart

£SALE

### SONY KV-21X5 21" KV-25X5 25" KV-29X5 29"

- Nicam
- 2x Scart
- Front AV
- NTSC Playback Via Scart

£SALE

### SONY SLV-SE80UX

- 4 Head • Nicam • Video Plus
- Front AV • Video Plus/PDC
- NTSC Playback

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# Panasonic

## AUTHORISED DEALER

### PANASONIC TX47PT1

- 47" Rear
- 100Hz
- Dolby Prologic
- AV Picture in Picture

£SALE

### PANASONIC TC-42PD1

- 42" Plasma Screen
- Multi System Compatible

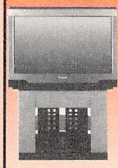
£SALE

### PANASONIC TC-37PD1

- 37" Plasma Screen
- Multi System Compatible

£SALE

### Panasonic TX32PF10 32"



100Hz, Pure Flat

£SALE

### Panasonic NVHS950

- S-VHS • 4 HEAD
- JOG SHUTTLE •
- NICAM
- VIDEO PLUS WITH PDC

£SALE

### Panasonic TX-32PK1

- 32" PURE FLAT
- NICAM STEREO

*Also Available TX28PK1*

£SALE

### PANASONIC TX-32DT2

- 32" Widescreen
- On-Digital decoder
- Nicam
- Pure Flat Screen

£SALE

### PANASONIC NV-HD685B

- NTSC Playback
- 4 Head Nicam
- Video Plus with PDC
- Tape Library
- Jog/Shuttle

£SALE

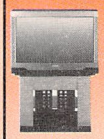
### PANASONIC NV-HS850

- S-VHS
- Jog/Shuttle
- Video Plus/PDC
- NTSC Playback

£SALE

### Panasonic TX32PK2

also TX 28PK2



- 32" Pure Flat
- Dolby Pro Logic

£SALE

### Panasonic TX-28MK1

*Also Available: TX25MK1 TX21MK1*

£SALE

### Panasonic TX-W36D3DP

- 36" WIDESCREEN
- 100Hz
- DOLBY PRO-LOGIC
- PICTURE IN PICTURE

£SALE

## Panasonic

| WIDESCREEN | | | VIDEO | | DVD | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| TV | TXW36D30PC | TX32DT2 | NVSD240B | NVHD685B5 | DVDA160 | NVRX14B | NVM55B |
| TXW28R4 | TX28PK1 | TX32PF10 | NVSD440B | NVHS900B | DVDA360 | NVRX24B | NVDA1B |
| TXW28R4DP | TX28PK2 | TX36PF10 | NVHD640B | NVHS850B5 | DVDL50 | NVRX64B | NVDS33B |
| TXW32R4 | TX28DT2 | TC37PD1 | NVHD645B5 | NVHS950B | CAMCORDERS | NVVX24B | NVDS99B |
| TXW32R4DPC | TX28PK10 | TC42PD1 | NVHD675BS | NVDV10000B | NVRX11B | NVVX44B | NVDX110B |
| | TX32PK1 | TX47PT1 | | | | NVVX54B | |
| | TX32PK2 | | | | | NVM50 | |

### PANASONIC NV-DS99

- DVC
- LCD Screen
- Progressive Photoshot
- 120x Digital Zoom
- Optical Image Stabilizer
- 0.5 LUX

£SALE

### PANASONIC NV-DS11

- DVC
- 2.5" LCD Screen
- 400x Digital Zoom
- Image Stabilizer
- 0.5 LUX

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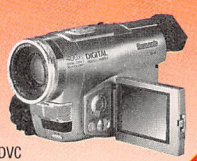
### PANASONIC NV-DS8



- DVC
- 400x Digital Zoom
- Image Stabilizer
- 0.5 LUX

£SALE

### Panasonic TXW28R4 28" TXW32R4 32"

Widescreen Nicam

£SALE

### Panasonic NVHS850B

- SVHS
- NICAM
- JOG SHUTTLE
- VIDEO PLUS PDC
- NTSC PLAYBACK VIA SCART

£SALE

### Panasonic NVDS33

- INCREDIBLE OFFERS

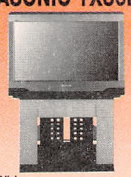
PRICE TOO LOW TO PRINT

### PANASONIC NV DV10000B

- DV & DVC
- Firewire In/Out

£SALE

### PANASONIC TX36PF10



- 36" Widescreen
- Pure Flat
- Dolby Prologic

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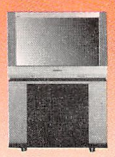
### PANASONIC TX28DT2



- 28" Widescreen
- Pure Flat Screen
- On Digital Decoder
- Nicam

£SALE

### Panasonic TXW32D2DPC

- PRO LOGIC
- 100Hz, Nicam

TO CLEAR

### Panasonic NVHD640

- NICAM
- 4 HEAD
- LONG PLAY
- VIDEOPLUS WITH PDC
- ON-SCREEN DISPLAY

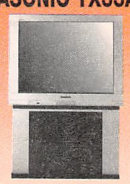
£SALE

### Panasonic NVHD645

- NICAM
- 4 HEAD
- LONG PLAY
- VIDEO PLUS WITH PDC
- ON-SCREEN DISPLAY

£SALE

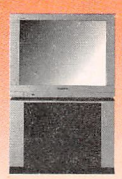
### PANASONIC TX33AK10



- 33" Pure Flat Screen
- 100Hz
- Dolby Prologic

£SALE

### PANASONIC TX29AK1



- 29" Pure Flat Screen
- Nicam

£SALE

### PANASONIC NVHD675B

- 4 Head Nicam
- Video Plus with PDC
- Video Library
- NTSC Playback

£SALE

### Panasonic TXW28R4DP 28" TXW32R4DP 32"

Widescreen Nicam

£SALE

### Panasonic NVHS900B

- 4 HEAD • S-VHS
- JOG/SHUTTLE
- VIDEO PLUS
- NTSC PLAYBACK

£SALE

### Panasonic NV-DS11

- DVC
- 2.5" LCD SCREEN
- 400x DIGITAL ZOOM
- IMAGE STABILISER

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# JVC

## AUTHORISED DEALER

### JVC DVL-9600

- 200x ZOOM
- HIGH SPEED RECORD
- PROGRESSIVE SCAN
- DV IN/OUT

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### JVC GR-DVM5

- DIGITAL VIDEO CAMERA
- 100X ZOOM
- COLOUR LCD VIEW-FINDER
- IMAGE STABILISER
- POCKET SIZE

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ALSO AVAILABLE GR-DV3

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### JVC AV-32WFP1

- PURE FLAT
- 100Hz
- 32" WIDESCREEN
- PIC IN PIC

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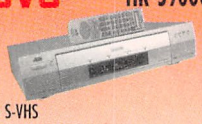
### JVC HR-S9600



- S-VHS
- DYNAMIC DRUM
- TIME BASE CORRECTOR
- INSERT EDIT
- AUDIO DUB

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### JVC HR-J645

- NICAM • VIDEOPLUS WITH PDC
- ON SCREEN DISPLAY
- NTSC PLAYBACK
- FRONT AV

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### JVC HR-S8600

- S-VHS
- 4 HEAD
- DYNAMIC DRUM
- INSERT EDIT
- AUDIO DUB

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### JVC

**WIDESCREEN TV**
AV-24WT2EK
AV-28WR4EK
AV-28WT4EK
AV-32WR4EK
AV-32WP2EK
AV-32WFP1EK

**S-VHS VIDEO**
HR-S6600EK
HR-S7500EK
HR-S7600EK

HR-S8600EK
HR-S9600EK
HR-DVS1EK

**TELEVISION**
C-JT14EK
C-J14EK
C-JT21EK
AV-21T54EK
AV-25T54EK
AV-25B03EK
AV-29B03EK
AV-255X4EK
AV-295X4EK

**VIDEO**
HR-J260EK
HR-J265EK
HR-J465EK
HR-J645EK
HR-J660EK
HR-J665EK
HR-DD855EK
HR-DD865EK

**DVD**
XV-505GD
XV-D515GD
XV-D701BK

**CAMCORDERS**
GR-AX280EK
GR-FX10EK
GR-FXM15EK
GR-FXM65EK
GR-SX20EK
GR-DVL20EK
GR-DVL30EK
GR-DVL40EK
GR-DVX4
GR-DVX7
GR-DVL9500
GR-DVL9600

### JVC HR-S7500

- S-VHS • EDIT
- VIDEOPLUS & PDC
- NICAM • FRONT AV
- JOG SHUTTLE

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### JVC HR-S6600

- S-VHS
- 4 HEAD
- NICAM
- VIDEOPLUS WITH PDC
- ON SCREEN DISPLAY

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### JVC DVL-9500

- 200x ZOOM
- HIGH SPEED RECORD
- PROGRESSIVE SCAN

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### JVC AV28WT4

- 28" WIDESCREEN
- SILVER
- CABINET
- STAND

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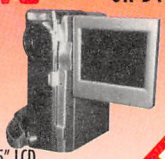
### JVC GR-DVX4



- 2.5" LCD
- BUILT IN FLASH
- INCLUDES SOFTWARE

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### JVC AV-28WR4

- 28" WIDESCREEN
- DOLBY PROLOGIC 3D PHONIC
- CABINET STAND

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### JVC DVL20

- DVLC
- 2.5" LCD SCREEN
- 160x DIGITAL ZOOM
- IMAGE STABILISER

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### JVC AV-32WR4

- 32" WIDE-SCREEN
- NICAM
- FASTEXT
- 20W RMS OUTPUT

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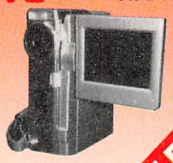
### JVC GR-DVX7



- 100x ZOOM
- VGA FLASH CARD
- BUILT-IN FLASH

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# HITACHI

## AUTHORISED DEALER

### HITACHI C28WS810TN

- 32" WIDESCREEN
- PROGRESSIVE SCAN
- 100Hz
- DOLBY PROLOGIC
- 38W RMS OUTPUT
- CABINET

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### HITACHI 32W3STN

- 32" WIDESCREEN
- DOLBY PROLOGIC
- 68W RMS OUTPUT
- VGA CONNECTION
- WOODGRAIN CABINET AVAILABLE

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### HITACHI 32WD2TNPW

- 32" WIDESCREEN
- DOLBY PROLOGIC
- 68W RMS OUTPUT
- VGA CONNECTION
- WOODGRAIN CABINET AVAILABLE

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### HITACHI C36WF810TN

- 36" WIDESCREEN
- PURE FLAT
- 100HZ
- PROGRESSIVE SCAN
- DOLBY DIGITAL

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### HITACHI 32W40DTN

- 32" WIDESCREEN
- ANALOGUE/DIGITAL TUNERS
- DOLBY PROLOGIC
- 68W RMS OUTPUT
- CABINET

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### HITACHI VTFX880

- NICAM VCR
- TAPE NAVIGATOR
- JOG/SHUTTLE
- VIDEOPLUS/PDC
- SATELLITE CONTROL
- NTSC PLAYBACK
- COMMERCIAL ADVANCE

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### HITACHI

**TV**
C1420VT
C2121T
C2156TN
C2556TN
C2856TN
C2186TN
C2586TN
C2886TN

**WIDESCREEN TV**
C24W511TN
C24W1TN

C28W410TN
C28W510TN
C28W1TN
C28WD2TN
C32WA2TN
C32WA2TNP
C32W35TN
C28W40DTN
C32W40DTN
C28WF523N
C32WF523N
C32WF810TN
C36WF810TN

**PROJECTOR TV**
C43WP910TN
C55WP910TN

**PLASMA**
C42WL920TN

**VIDEO**
VT-MX810E
VT-MX835E
VT-FX850E
VT-FX860E
VT-FX880E

**DVD**
DV-P250E

### HITACHI C32WD2TN 32" C28WD2TN 28"

- WIDESCREEN
- DOLBY PROLOGIC
- VGA INPUT
- CABINET

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### HITACHI C32WD2TNP 32" C28WD2TNP 28"

- WIDESCREEN • DOLBY PROLOGIC
- 68W RMS OUTPUT • VGA INPUT
- POWER CONSOL CABINET

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### HITACHI C28W1TN

- 28" WIDESCREEN
- NICAM
- 20W RMS OUTPUT
- FRONT AV
- TWIN SCARTS

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### HITACHI C2886TN 28" C2586TN 25" C2186TN 21"

- DOLBY PROLOGIC WITH 3DS
- BLACK MATRIX TUBE
- CABINET

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### HITACHI C32WF810TN

- 32" WIDESCREEN
- PURE FLAT
- 100Hz
- PROGRESSIVE SCAN
- DOLBY DIGITAL

£SALE

### HITACHI 43WP910TN

- 43" REAR PROJECTION
- 100HZ WITH PROGRESSIVE SCAN
- DOLBY DIGITAL
- DTS

£SALE

### HITACHI C55WP910TN 55" C43WP910TN 43"

- WIDESCREEN
- 100HZ
- PROGRESSIVE SCAN
- DOLBY DIGITAL
- 105W RMS

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### HITACHI C28W1TN

- 24" WIDESCREEN
- NICAM
- FASTEXT
- 20W RMS OUTPUT

£SALE

### HITACHI C28W40DTN

- 28" WIDESCREEN
- ANALOGUE/DIGITAL TUNERS
- DOLBY PROLOGIC
- 68W RMS OUTPUT
- CABINET

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# TOSHIBA

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### Toshiba V859B/858B

- 4 HEAD NICAM
- VIDEO PLUS WITH PAL
- JOG & SHUTTLE • INSERT EDIT
- AUDIO DUB • SATELLITE CONTROL
- STEREO NTSC PLAYBACK CAPABLE
- PICTURE ENHANCING DNR
- ON SCREEN DISPLAY
- FRONT AV

£SALE

### Toshiba 3387DB

- 33" FST SCREEN
- 5 SPEAKER DOLBY PRO-LOGIC
- 55W RMS OUTPUT
- 5 MODE DSP
- SUBWOOFER
- INVAR MASK
- MATCHING CABINET

£SALE

### Toshiba 43PJ93B

- 43" REAR PROJECTOR
- 4:3 SCREEN
- 28W RMS OUTPUT
- NTSC PLAYBACK

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### Toshiba 55PJ6

- 55" REAR PROJECTOR SCREEN
- DOLBY PRO-LOGIC
- 55W RMS OUTPUT
- 5 MODE DSP
- NTSC VIDEO PLAYBACK VIA SCART
- CABINET OPTIONAL

**RRP £3500**

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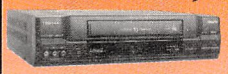
### Toshiba V729B



- 4 HEAD NICAM
- VIDEO PLUS WITH PDC
- SATELLITE CONTROL
- STEREO NTSC PLAYBACK CAPABLE
- AUDIO DUB
- ON SCREEN DISPLAY

### Toshiba 50PJ98DB

- 50" REAR PROJECTOR
- 4:3 SCREEN
- 50w RMS OUTPUT
- DOLBY PROLOGIC
- NTSC PLAYBACK

£SALE

### Toshiba 40PW8

- 40" WIDESCREEN
- DOLBY DIGITAL
- 50 WATTS RMS

**RRP £3000**

PRICE TOO LOW TO PRINT

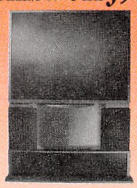
### Toshiba 32WD98B

- 32" SUPERFLAT WIDESCREEN
- INVAR MASK
- 100HZ
- 5 SPEAKER DOLBY PRO-LOGIC
- 55W RMS OUTPUT • SUBWOOFER
- BUILT IN CENTRE SPEAKER
- 5 MODE DSP • NTSC VIDEO PLAYBACK • CABINET • AC3

ALSO 28WD98B AVAILIABLE

£SALE

### Toshiba 61PJ98DB



- 61" REAR PROJECTOR
- 4:3 SCREEN
- 50W RMS OUTPUT
- NTSC VIDEO PLAYBACK

£SALE

### Toshiba 2987DB

BEST BUY WHAT VIDEO & TV

- 28" FST SCREEN
- 5 SPEAKER DOLBY PRO-LOGIC
- 55W RMS OUTPUT
- 5 MODE DSP
- SUBWOOFER
- INVAR MASK
- MATCHING CABINET

ALSO 3387DB/ 3787DB

**RRP £850**

PRICE TOO LOW TO PRINT

### Toshiba 48PJ6

- 48" REAR PROJECTOR SCREEN
- DOLBY PRO-LOGIC
- 55W RMS OUTPUT
- 5 MODE DSP
- NTSC VIDEO PLAYBACK VIA SCART
- CABINET OPTIONAL

**RRP £3000**

### Toshiba DVD PLAYERS

SD2109
SD3109
SD9000

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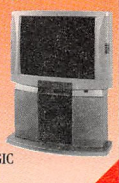
### Toshiba 3787DB



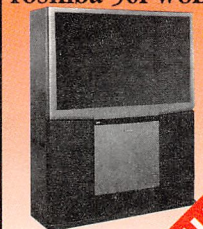
- 37" FST SCREEN
- DOLBY PRO-LOGIC
- 100 WATTS RMS
- NTSC PLAYBACK

**RRP £2000**

ALSO AVAILABLE 2987DB & 3387DB

£SALE

### Toshiba 56PW8DB



- 56" WIDESCREEN

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### Toshiba 32ZD98B

- 32" WIDESCREEN
- PURE FLAT
- 100Hz PICTURE
- DOLBY DIGITAL DECODER
- 65w RMS OUTPUT

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# PHILIPS

## AUTHORISED DEALER

### PHILIPS 32PW9523

- 32" SUPERFLAT WIDESCREEN COOL GREEN
- NICAM • 100Hz
- NTSC VIDEO PLAYBACK

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### PHILIPS 28PW9615-28" 32PW9615-32"

- DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
- 100Hz
- NTSC PLAY BACK
- CRYSTAL CLEAR TUBE

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### PHILIPS 28PW6332 28" 32PW6332 32"

Dolby Prologic, Widescreen

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### PHILIPS 32PW9545

- 32" WIDESCREEN
- HIGH GLOSS SILVER
- 100 Hz

Also available 32PW9535 in high gloss blue

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### PHILIPS 32PW9545 HIGHGLOSS SILVER

- 32" WIDESCREEN
- 100Hz
- CRYSTAL CLEAR
- NTSC PLAYBACK
- MATCHING STAND

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### PHILIPS 32PW9534 "Ice Blue"

100Hz, Nicam, Superflat

£SALE

### PHILIPS

| WIDESCREEN TV | | VIDEO | DVD950 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 24PW6324 | 32PW9523 | VR200 | DVD955 |
| 28PW6324 | 32PW9534 | VR600 | |
| 32PW6324 | 32PW9544 | VR700 | TV |
| 28PW6332 | 28PW9545 | VR805 | 21PT1653 |
| 32PW6332 | 32PW9545 | VR860 | 21PT1664 |
| 28PW9515 | 28PW9535 | VR900 | 25PT4103 |
| 32PW9515 | 32PW9535 | VR1000 | 21PT4475 |
| 36PW9515 | 45PP9501 | VR969 | 25PT4475 |
| 28PW9615 | 55PP9501 | DVR1000 | 28PT4475 |
| 32PW9615 | 42PW9982 | | 21PT5324 |
| 36PW9765 | 42PW9952 | DVD | 25PT5125 |
| | 28PW6734 | DVD710 | 28PT5125 |
| | 32PW6834 | DVD750 | 29PT6773 |

### PHILIPS VR860

- SILVER
- N!CAM
- 4 HEAD
- VIDEOPLUS WITH PDC
- EDITING
- NTSC PLAYBACK

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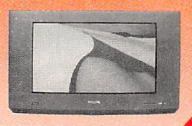
### PHILIPS 36PW9525



- 36" PURE FLAT
- 100 Hz
- DOLBY DIGITAL

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### PHILIPS 32PW9544 "Silver Shadow"

100Hz, Nicam, Superflat

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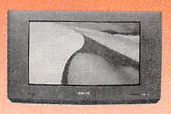
### PHILIPS 32PW9525



- 32" PURE FLAT
- 100 Hz
- DOLBY DIGITAL

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### PHILIPS 28PW6324

- 28" WIDE SCREEN
- NICAM
- ON SCREEN MENU

ALSO 32PW6332

£SALE

### PHILIPS VR806 Cool Green

4HD, Turbo Drive, Nicam, V+, PDC

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### PHILIPS 14PV284

- TELE VIDEO
- NTSC PLAYBACK
- VIDEOPLUS + PDC
- AUTO INSTALL

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### PHILIPS VR600

- NICAM • 4 HEAD LONG PLAY
- VIDEO PLUS WITH PDC
- NTSC PLAYBACK

ALSO AVAILABLE VR700

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### PHILIPS 14PV182

- TELEVIDEO
- NTSC VIDEO PLAYBACK
- VIDEOPLUS
- AUTO SET UPZ

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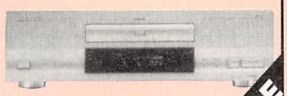
## PIONEER DV626



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## PIONEER ELITE DV-09

- Region 1 only

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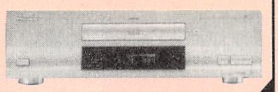
## PIONEER DVD 717



- AC 3
- DTS

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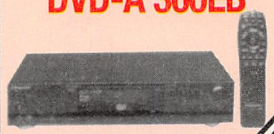
## PANASONIC DVD-A 360EB



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## TOSHIBA 2109

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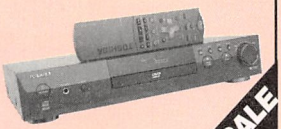
## TOSHIBA SD9000



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## PIONEER DV 525

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## PANASONIC DVD L50

- AC 3
- DTS

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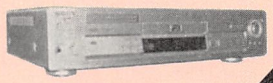
## SONY DVP-S725



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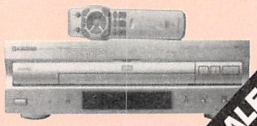
## PIONEER DVL919



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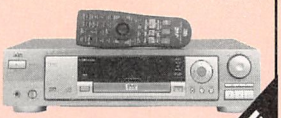
## JVC XVD 515



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## PIONEER Elite DV-05

- THX
- Region 1 only

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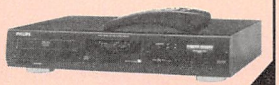
## PHILIPS DVD 710



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## SONY DVP-S525

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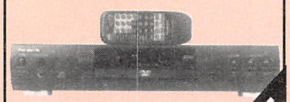
## PANASONIC DVD A150



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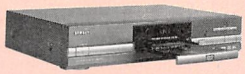
## SAMSUNG DVD 709



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## YAMAHA DVS795

- 24 Bit DAC
- AC3 Decoder

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## PANASONIC DVD-A160

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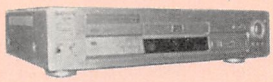
## SONY DVPS 325



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## JVC XV-505GD

- 24 Bit DAC

£SALE

## SONY DVP-CX850D

Picture not exact

- 200 Disc DVD Changer
- Dolby Digital
- DTS
- CD Text

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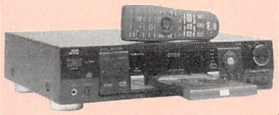
## JVC XV-D701



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| | JVC E-30SX | £0.99 |
| | TDK E-30 HS | £1.40 |
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| | MEMOREX E-60SHQ | £1.15 |
| | MAXELL E-60GX BLK | £1.30 |
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| E-90 | FUJI E-90HQ+CASE | £1.75 |
| | BASF E-90 CAM-COPIER | £1.55 |
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| | PHILIPS E-120 PG | £0.85 |
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| | TDK E-180 HS (24+) | £0.92 |
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| | JVC E-180SX | £0.82 |
| | KONICA E-180 SUPER S | £1.00 |
| | MAXELL E-180 | £0.90 |
| | PANASONIC E-180 | £1.00 |
| E-195 | MEMOREX E-195 SHQ | £1.35 |
| E-210 | TDK E-210HS | £1.75 |
| E-240 | TDK E-240 HS | £1.20 |
| | TDK E-240HS (24+) | £1.10 |
| | JVC E-240SX | £0.90 |
| E-300 | BASF E-300 EQ | £2.50 |
| | BASF E-300 VISION | £2.50 |
| | MEMOREX E-200 SHR | £2.50 |

## VHS HIGH GRADE HI-FI

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|---|---|---|
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| | E-60 EHG HI-FI | £1.85 |
| | E-120 EHG HI-FI | £1.95 |
| | E-180 EHG HI-FI | £1.70 |
| | E-240 EHG HI-FI | £2.10 |
| JVC | E-30 EHG HI-FI | £1.45 |
| | E-60 EHG HI-FI | £1.50 |
| | E-120 EHG HI-FI | £1.65 |
| | E-180 EHG HI-FI | £1.45 |
| | E-180 EHG HI-FI (20+) | £1.35 |
| | E-240 EHG HI-FI | £2.15 |
| | E-240 EHG HI-FI (20+) | £1.85 |
| MAXELL | E-30 HGX BLK | £1.45 |
| | E-60 HGX BLK | £1.50 |
| | E-120 HGX BLK | £1.85 |
| | E-180 HGX BLK | £1.75 |
| | E-240 HGX BLK | £2.35 |
| | E-180 GX BLK | £1.40 |
| | E-240 GX BLK | £1.80 |
| SCOTCH | E-180 EXG+ | £2.50 |
| | E-180 EXG+ (24+) | £2.00 |
| FUJI | E-30 SHG HI-FI | £1.55 |
| | E-60 SHG HI-FI | £1.58 |
| | E-120 SHG HI-FI | £1.64 |
| | E-180 SHG HI-FI | £1.68 |
| | E-180 SHG HI-FI (20+) | £1.60 |
| | E-180 SHG HI-FI +CASE | £1.80 |
| | E-240 SHG HI-FI | £2.20 |
| | E-240 SHG (20+) | £2.10 |
| | E-240 SHG HI-FI + CASE | £2.35 |
| BASF | E-180 PHG HI-FI | £2.10 |
| | E-180 HI-FI PROMASTER | £2.85 |
| | E-240 PHG HI-FI | £2.40 |
| | E-240 HI-FI PROMASTER | £3.60 |
| | E-300 PHG HI-FI | £3.85 |
| SONY | E-180 VHFF HI-FI | £1.50 |

## SUPER-VHS TAPES S-VHS

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| | SE-60XG | £3.65 |
| | SE-120XG | £2.55 |
| | SE-180XG (5+) | £4.15 |
| | SE-240XG (5+) | £5.15 |
| SV | SE-180SV | £2.85 |
| | SE-240SV | £3.85 |
| | SE-180XZ (PROF) | £7.99 |
| KONICA | SE-30 D/C | £2.85 |
| | SE-60 D/C | £3.25 |
| | SE-180 D/C | £3.85 |
| TDK | SE-180XP | £3.90 |
| | SE-180XP PRO | £5.35 |
| | SE-240XP PRO | £5.35 |
| | SE-240XP PRO | £6.69 |
| FUJI | SE-30 PRO | £3.95 |
| | SE-60 PRO | £4.10 |
| | SE-120 PRO | £4.15 |
| | SE-180 PRO | £4.45 |
| | SE-240 PRO | £5.60 |
| | H471SE-180 PRO | £9.50 |
| BASF | SE-180 | £3.99 |
| | SE-180 (20+) | £3.75 |
| | SE-240 | £5.65 |
| | SE-240 (20+) | £5.35 |
| PANASONIC | NVSE-180XD PRO | £4.99 |
| MAXELL | SE-180XR-S BLK | £4.15 |
| | SE-240XR-S BLK | £4.99 |
| | SE-180BQ | £10.50 |
| AMPEX | 289-SE 180 (SLEEVE) | £6.99 |
| | 289-SE 180 LIBRARY | £9.50 |
| SONY | MQ SE-30 | £6.00 |
| | MQ SE-60 | £7.00 |
| | MQ SE-120 | £8.50 |
| | MQ SE-180 | £9.50 |

## PROFESSIONAL/MASTER QUALITY

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| | E-60 PRO | £3.75 |
| | E-120 PRO (10+) | £3.75 |
| | E-180 PRO (10+) | £3.99 |
| TDK | E-180 HD-X | £3.00 |
| | E-240 HD-X | £3.65 |
| FUJI | E-30 SXG | £3.25 |
| | E-120 SXG | £3.65 |
| | E-180 SXG | £4.25 |
| SCOTCH | E-120 EXG + PROF | £6.00 |
| | E-180 EXG + PROF | £7.00 |
| SONY | E-180V PRO XF | £7.50 |
| BASF | E-30 BROADCAST Q | £1.80 |
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| 8MM | SONY | P5-60 MP | £1.25 |
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| | TDK | P5-90HS | £1.75 |
| | | P5-90 EGH | £3.00 |
| | MAXELL | P5-110 HGX | £2.50 |
| | FUJI | P5-90 SHG D/C | £2.30 |
| | | P5-120 SHG D/C | £3.60 |
| S-VHS-C | MAXELL | SE-C45 XR-S | £3.45 |
| | FUJI | SE-C45 PRO | £4.99 |
| | JVC | SE-C45 XG | £3.95 |
| | | SE-C30XG (1+) | £1.50 |
| | | (10+) | £0.99 |
| | SCOTCH | SE-C45 | £2.75 |
| | TDK | SE-45 XP PRO | £4.75 |
| VHS-C | TDK | EC-45 HI-FI | £1.85 |
| | | EC-60 EHG | £3.35 |
| | FUJI | EC-45 SHG | £1.85 |
| | JVC | EC-45 EHG HIFI | £1.85 |
| | | EC-30 PRO | £1.99 |
| | | EC-30 EHG | £1.15 |
| | SONY | EC-45V | £1.25 |
| | PANASONIC | EC-45 SHG | £1.85 |
| | KONICA | EC-30 (3) | £3.00 |

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| | MD-W74 (COLOURED) | £1.25 |
| | MD-W80 | £1.85 |
| | MD-W74 ES (HIGH STANDARD) | £1.99 |
| MD-W60 pentium | each | £0.90 |
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| TDK | MD-RXG74 | £1.40 |
| | MD-74 (STUDIO) | £2.15 |
| | MD-74 (PROF) | £4.25 |
| | MD-RXG 80 | £1.75 |
| MAXELL | MD-74 (GOLD) | £1.75 |
| FUJI | MD-74 | £1.45 |
| JVC | MD-74 (40+) | £1.12 |
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| | MD-74 (GOLD) (10+) | £1.30 |
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| PHILIPS | DCC-90 | £2.99 |

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| | DVM-60 (WITH CHIP) | £7.99 |
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| JVC | M-DV60ME | £4.40 |
| PANASONIC | DVM-60ME | £4.40 |
| | DVM-60ME + CLEANER | £13.99 |
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| TDK | DVM-60ME | £4.99 |

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| Philips | CD-R 74 | £1.40 |
| | CD-R 80 | £1.60 |
| | CD-R 74 (REWRITABLE) | £3.95 |
| TDK | CD-RXG 74 | £1.35 |
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| SAMSUNG | CD-R 74 | £0.80 |
| BASF | CD-R 74 | £1.00 |
| MAXELL | CD-R 74 | £0.90 |
| SONY | CD-R 74 | £1.25 |

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| | DV 120 EK (-CHIP) | £16.00 |
| SONY | DV-120 MEME (+CHIP) | £23.00 |
| | DV-180 MEME (+CHIP) | £21.99 |
| | PDVM-184 ME (+CHIP) | £29.00 |
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| JVC | DF 300 (DIGITAL) | £10.00 |
| | DF 420 (VHS) | £17.99 |

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| | DA-RXG120 | £4.40 | £5.45 |
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| AMPEX | DAT-94 | £5.00 | — |
| | DAT-124 | £5.50 | — |
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| D-90 | £0.38 | | UR-60 | £0.34 |
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# DIGITAL TELEVISIONS & Videos For 2000

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## DIGITAL TELEVISIONS

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| PANASONIC TX28DT2 &TX32DT2 | Special |
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| 21" PANASONIC 21CK1 Silver | 239 |
| 21" SONY 21X5 | 249 |
| 28" GRUNDIG ST70 270 100Hz | 449 |
| 28" PANASONIC 28LD4DPC | 449 |
| 28" TOSHIBA 2873DB | 399 |
| 29" PANASONIC TX29AK1 | 579 |
| 29" SONY 29X5 | 399 |
| 29" SONY 29FX20 | 499 |
| 29" TOSHIBA 2987DB | 499 |
| 33" FERGUSON M8422 | 549 |
| 33" PANASONIC TX33AK10 | 1199 |
| 33" THOMSON 33MS25UD DPL | 779 |
| 33" TOSHIBA 3387DB | 799 |
| 37" THOMSON 37MH40E 100HZ | SPECIAL |
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| 46/52" THOMSON 46/52RH44 | SPECIAL |

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| PHILIPS VR806 Cool Green | 249 |
| PHILIPS VR860 Tape Manager | 199 |
| SONY SLVSE70 | 199 |
| SONY SLVSE80 | 229 |
| SONY SLVSE930 | 349 |
| SONY SLVSF90 | 299 |
| SONY SLVSF99 | 349 |
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| JVC HRS7600 NEW | SPECIAL |
| JVC HRS8600 NEW | SPECIAL |
| JVC HRS9600 NEW | SPECIAL |
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| PANASONIC NVHS950 | 499 |
| PHILIPS VR1000 | 269 |

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| 24"THOMSON 24WK24 | 399 |
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| 28" PANASONIC TXW28R4DPC | 579 |
| 28" PANASONIC TX28PK1 Tau | 679 |
| 28" PANASONIC TX28PK2 DPL | 769 |
| 28" PANASONIC TX28PK10 100Hz | 899 |
| 28" PHILIPS 28PW6324 | 449 |
| 28" PHILIPS 28PW6332 DPL | 479 |
| 28" PHILIPS 28PW9615 AC3 | 929 |
| 28" SONY KV28WF1 | 549 |
| 28" SONY KV28WS2 DPL | 599 |
| 28" SONY KV28FX20 | 649 |
| 28" SONY KV28FX60 100Hz | SPECIAL |
| 28" SONY KV28FC60 100Hz | SPECIAL |
| 28" THOMSON WF64 Extra Flat | Scenium |
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| 32" PHILIPS 32PW6332 DPL | 699 |
| 32" PHILIPS 32PW9523 Green | 1199 |
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| 32" PHILIPS 32PW9544 Silver | 1199 |
| 32" PHILIPS 32PW9545 Silver Gloss | SPECIAL |
| 32" PHILIPS 32PW9615 AC3 | 1149 |
| 32" PHILIPS 32PW9525 REAL FLAT | NEW |
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| 32" PANASONIC TXW32R4DPC | 899 |
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| 50" SONY KL50W2 | REDUCED |
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| 61" TOSHIBA | NEW |

## TV/VIDEO COMBI'S

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| PANASONIC TX21GV1 | 349 |
| PHILIPS 14PV325 WITH TEXT | 249 |
| SONY KV14V6 2 TUNERS | 299 |
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| VM-LC200 | £ 349.95 |

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| CCD-TR425 | £ 269.95 |
| CCD-TR515 | £ 339.95 |
| CCD-TR713 | £ CALL |
| CCD-TR913 | £ 369.95 |
| CCD-TRV27 | £ 379.95 |
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| CCD-TRV66 | £ 519.95 |
| DCR-PC2 | £ 879.95 |
| DCR-PC3 | £1049.95 |
| DCR-PC7 | £ 799.95 |
| DCR-PC100 | £ CALL |
| DCR-TR7000 | £ 519.95 |
| DCR-TRV110 | £ 565.00 |
| DCR-TRV310 | £ 699.95 |
| DCR-TRV510 | £ 789.95 |
| DCR-TRV890 | £1075.00 |
| DCR-TRV900 | £1449.95 |
| DCR-TRV8 | £ 799.95 |
| DCR-TRV9 | £ 749.95 |
| DCR-TRV10 | £ 965.00 |
| DCR-VX1000 | £1989.95 |
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| MVCFD73 | £ 395.00 |
| MVCFD83 | £ 529.95 |
| MVCFD88 | £ 629.95 |
| MVCFD91 | £ 749.95 |
| MVCFDR3 | £ 345.00 |
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| DSCF55 | £ 399.95 |
| DSCF505 | £ 589.95 |
| DSCD770 | £1399.95 |

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| GVDT3 | £ 369.95 |
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| NVMPD7B | £ 385.00 |

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| PVP1 | £ CALL |
| DPPMS300E | £ CALL |

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| HRJ660 | £ 145.00 |
| HRS6600 | £ 219.95 |
| HRS7600 | £ 239.95 |
| HRS8600 | £ 355.00 |
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| GVCB3 | £ 149.95 |

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| VWEC500 | £ 299.95 |
| VWDTA1 | £ 99.95 |
| VWDTA5 | £ 79.95 |
| VWDTA10B | £ CALL |

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| MX-1 Mixer | £ 659.95 |
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| TX28MK1M | £ 369.95 |
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| TX36PF10C | £ CALL |
| TX28PK1C | £ 639.95 |
| TX28PK2C | £ CALL |
| TX32PK1C | £ 939.95 |
| TX32PK2C | £1035.00 |
| TX28PK10 | £ 895.00 |
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| 32PW6332C | £ 725.00 |
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| 32DW6834C | £ CALL |
| 32PW9523C | £1199.95 |
| 32PW9534C | £1199.95 |
| 28PW9535C | £1039.95 |
| 32PW9535C | £ CALL |
| 32PW9544C | £1199.95 |
| 28PW9545C | £1039.95 |
| 32PW9545C | £1239.95 |
| 28PW9615C | £ CALL |
| 32PW9615C | £ CALL |
| 55PP9501C | £ CALL |

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| KL50W2 | £2799.95 |
| KP41DS1 | £ CALL |
| KP41S4 | £1099.95 |
| KP46S4 | £ CALL |
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| KV21X5 | £ 245.00 |
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| KV29X5 | £ 399.95 |
| KV24WX1 | £ 415.00 |
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| KV32DS20 | £1199.95 |
| KV28DS60 | £1275.00 |
| KV32DS60 | £ CALL |
| KV28DX20 | £ 825.00 |
| KV32DX20 | £1139.95 |
| KV28FC60Z | £1229.95 |
| KV32FC60Z | £1539.95 |
| KV28FD1 | £ CALL |
| KV32FD1 | £ CALL |
| KV29FS60 | £ CALL |
| KV28FX20 | £ 649.95 |
| KV28FX60 | £ 899.95 |
| KV29FX20 | £ 499.95 |
| KV29FX60 | £ CALL |
| KV32FX20 | £ 995.00 |
| KV32FX60 | £ CALL |
| KV28WF1 | £ 539.95 |
| KV32WF1 | £ 749.95 |
| KV20WS1 | £ 365.00 |
| KV28WS2 | £ 595.00 |
| KV32WS2 | £ 889.95 |

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| 2987 DB | £ 518.00 |
| 3387 DB | £ 799.95 |
| 3787 DB | £1275.00 |
| 28W93B | £ 429.95 |
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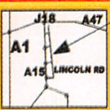


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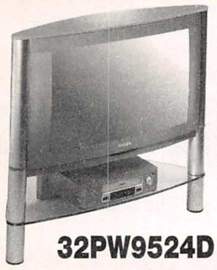

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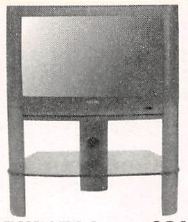

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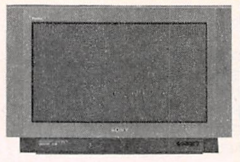

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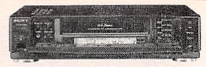

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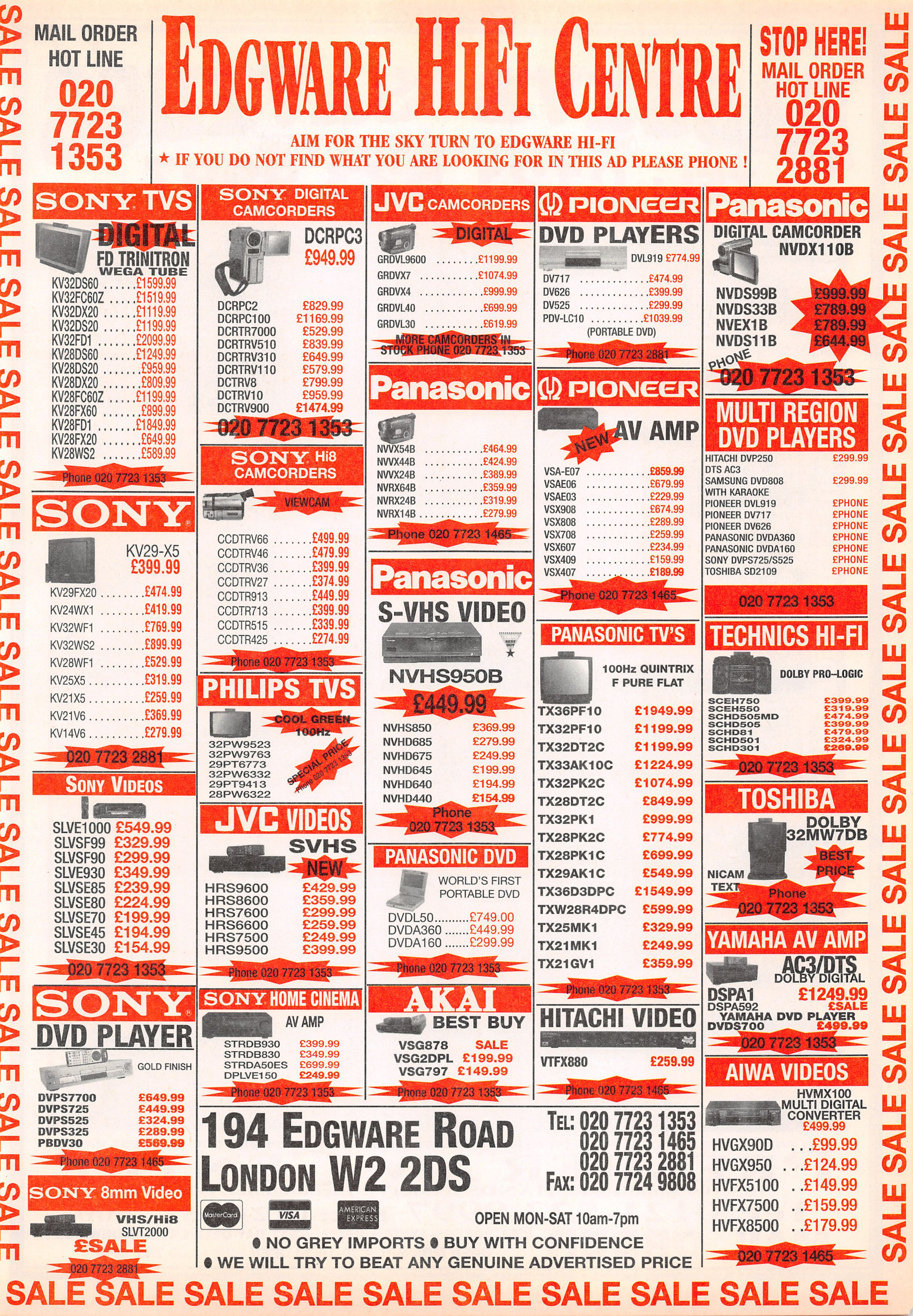

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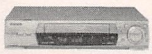
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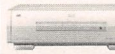
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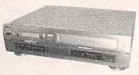
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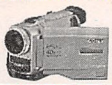
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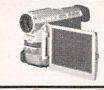
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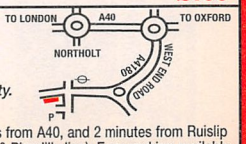


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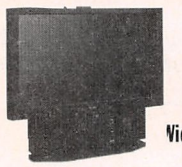

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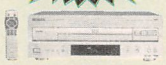

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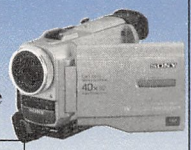

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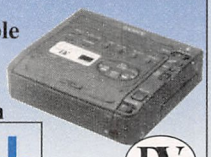

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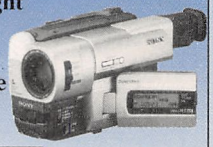

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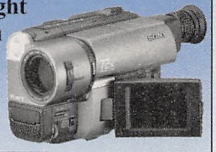

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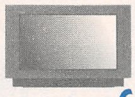

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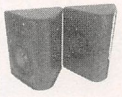

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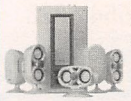

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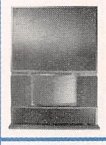

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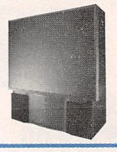

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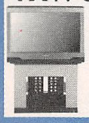

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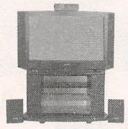

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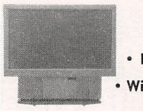

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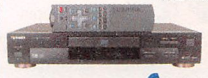

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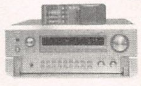

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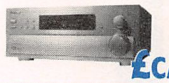

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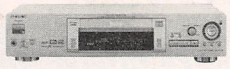

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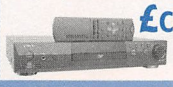

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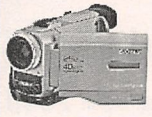

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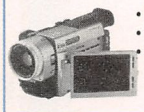

- 3CCD picture quality
- Steady shot
- Floppy disc drive

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## SONY DCR PC2E/PC3E

- 2.5" LCD
- Carl Zeiss lens
- Nightshot
- Touch panel
- PC3 has Memory stick

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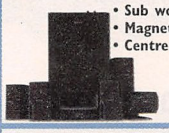
## JAMO APOLLO COMPLETE PACKAGE

- 5 small sized speakers and active sub woofer

£399

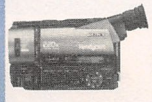
## SONY SA-VE705



- Sub woofer
- Magnetically shielded
- Centre speaker stand

£232

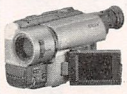
## SONY CCD TR515E/ 713E/913E



- Hi8 camera
- 72x zoom
- Light
- Nightshot
- Picture effects

£CALL

## SONY CCD TRV36E/ 46E/66E



- Hi8 camera
- 2.5" LCD • Light
- 72x zoom
- Nightshot
- Laserlink

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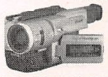
## SONY DCR TRV110E/ 310E/510E



- Digital8 • 80x zoom
- Steady shot • Nightshot
- Digital effects
- 2.5" LCD

£CALL

## SONY CDP CX350

- 300 disc changer

£CALL

## SONY DCPRC100

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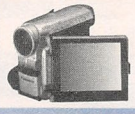
## PANASONIC NV DS77B/DS33B

£CALL



- 100x zoom
- DV out
- 3.8" LCD colour viewfinder

## PANASONIC NV DS99B

- 3.8" LCD
- 120x zoom
- PIP stabilizer

£CALL

## PANASONIC NV EX1/EX3

- 2.5" LCD
- 100x digital zoom

£CALL

## SONY DCR VX1000

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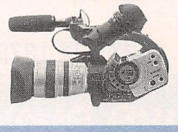
## CANON DM-XL1



- Hi res
- DV In/Out

£CALL

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# SONY® DIGITAL 0121 554 1878

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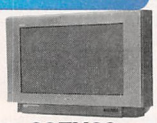
## KV-32FX60/28FX60

- 32" Flat Screen
- 100Hz • Digital Plus
- Widescreen
- Fastext



32FX60 **£999** WITHOUT CABINET

28FX60 **£799**

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## KV32FX20/KV28FX20

- 32"/28" Flatscreen
- 50Hz digital plus
- Widescreen
- Without Cabinet

**KV32FX20 £799**
**KV28FX20 £649**

## CCDTR425/515

- Video 8
- 72x Digital Zoom
- Nightshot
- Manual focus fader
- Built in light

**CCDTR425 £299.00**
**CCDTR515 £339.00**

## KV32FC60/KV28FC60

- Haute Couture
- Flat Screen
- 100Hz
- Dual Drive Speakers
- Without cabinet

**KV32FC60 £999.00**

## CCD TR713/913

- Video Hi8
- 72x Digital Zoom
- Nightshot
- Stabilizer
- Built In Light

**CCD TR713 £349.00**
**CCD TR913 £379.00**
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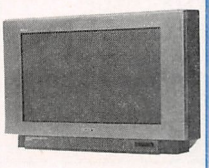
## KV-32DS60/KV-28DS60

KV-32DS60
- Flatscreen
- Digital Dolby Prologic

**£1549.00**

KV-28DS60
- Flatscreen
- Digital Dolby Prologic

**£1249.00**



## CCDTRV27/36

- 2.5" LCD Screen
- Video 8
- 72x Zoom
- Nightshot

**CCD TRV27 £369.00**
**CCD TRV36 £415.00** 0121 554 1878

## DCRTRV900

- 48x zoom stabilizer
- 3.5" flipout screen
- 16 bit digital sound

Digital Camera
New compact pro 3CCDWV Palmcorder

**DCRTRV900 £1379.00**

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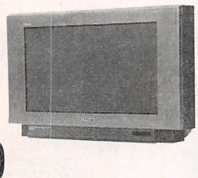
## KV-32FD1

- Flatscreen
- 100 Hz
- Scart picture in picture
- RGB



**£1999.00**

## CCD TRV46/66

- Steady Shot
- Built In Light
- 2.5" LCD Screen
- Video Hi8
- 72/80x Zoom
- Nightshot
- Picture Effects
- Hi-Fi Stereo

**CCD TRV46 £459.00**
0121 554 1878 **CCD TRV66 £489.00**

## SONY KP41DS1

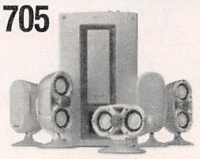
DIGITAL TELEVISION

- 41" Rear Projector
- On Digital Decoder
- Nicam
- NTSC Playback Via Scart

**£1599.00**

## SONY SPEAKERS

S-AVE 705



- Set of SONY speakers

**£389.00**

## DCR TR7000

- 80x Digital Zoom
- Steady Shot
- Nightshot
- Timecode
- Colour Viewfinder

**£499.00** 0121 554 1878

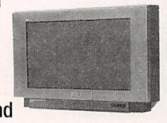
## SONY DCR PC100

- New digital palmcorder

**£1199.00**

## KV32DX20/KV28DX20

- 28"/32" flatscreen
- VEGA integrated digital TV
- 50Hz
- Digital picture
- Digital stereo sound



**KV32DX20 £1099**
**KV28DX20 £799** 0121 554 1878

## KP 41S5

- High contrast screen
- Scratch proof screen
- NTSC video input
- Fast-text

41" Rear Projection

**SALE £1099.00**

## DCR TRV310

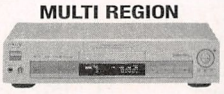
- Digital 8
- Digital Recording
- 80x Digital Zoom
- Photomode
- Time Code
- 3.5" LCD Screen
- Nightshot
- Steadyshot

**£649.00** 0121 373 2120

## DVPS525/325

- Dolby digital with DTS Stream out
- Pal/NTSC playback
- Audio CD

MULTI REGION



**DV 525 £399 DV325 £349**
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## DCR PC2/3

- Photomode
- Manual Controls
- 10x Optical Zoom
- 2.5" LCD Screen

**PC2 £879**
**PC3 £989**

Digital Palmcorder

## DVPS 725D/DVP S7700

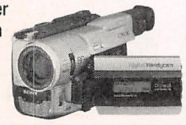
**DVPS 725D**
- PAL/NTSC Playback
- Dolby Digital
- DTS Streamout

**DVP S7700**
- Ultra-Prestige/ ES New DVD Player
- AC3/DTS Player

**£489.00** Multi-region **£649.00**

## DCR TRV510

- 4" LCD Screen
- Colour Viewfinder
- 80x Digital Zoom
- Nightshot
- Steadyshot



**£849.00**
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## SONY STRDB930

- DOLBY PRO LOGIC RECIEVER
- ALSO AVAILABLE STRDB 930

**STRDB930 £389**

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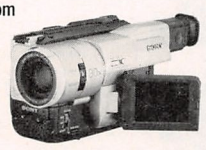
## DCR TRV110

- 2.5" LCD Screen
- 80x Digital Zoom
- Nightshot
- Steadyshot



**£589.00**
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## DCR TRV10

- 40x zoom
- LCD monitor
- Memory stick slot
- Colour viewfinder
- Steady shot

**£899.00**
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## DVD PLAYERS

**DVPS 7700 £649 DVPS 525D £399**
**DVPS 725D £489 DVPS 325D £349**

## VIDEO RECORDERS

**SLVSE 70 £195 SLVSE 85 £229 SLVE 1000 £569 SLVT 2000 £639**
**SLVSE 80 £219 SLVSE 930 £339 SLVSF 99 £319**

*Prices are subject to change due to difference in copy date and publication date.*

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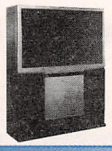
# 0121 554 1878 CAMCORDER CENTRE 0121 373 2120

## CANON DM-MV200/20

- 2.5in LCD Screen
- 12x Optical Zoom
- Colour Viewfinder

DM-MV200 £599.00
DM-MV20 £729.00

## TOSHIBA 56 PW8

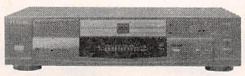


- 56" Rear projection TV

£2599.00

## TOSHIBA SD3109/SD9000

MULTIREGION DVD PLAYERS



SD 3109 £379.00
SD 9000 £499.00

## JVC XV515

MULTIREGION DVD PLAYER

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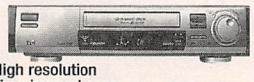
0121 373 2120
£279.00

## JVC HRS9600EK



- High resolution
- Time jog and scan
- Nicam

£429.00
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## 32WD98/32ZD98

NEW
32WD98
£999.00
32ZD98
£1299.00

## PIONEER DVD626

MULTIREGION DVD PLAYER

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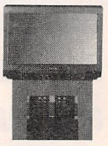
0121 373 2120
£379.00

## PANASONIC TX36PF10

- 36 Inch Flat Sreen
- Picture & Picture
- 100Hz



£1849.00

## JVC HRS7600/8600

NEW MODEL

HRS7600 HRS8600 • Super VHS • 4 Head Nicam
£259.00 £349.00 • Timebase corrector
• Editing features
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## JVC CAMCORDERS

GRDVF10EK
GRDVF1EK
GRDL9500
GRDL9600
GRDVX4
JVCGR-DVL20
JVCGR-DVL40

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## PANASONIC DVDL50

DVD PLAYER MULTI REGION
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£699.00

## PANASONIC NVDX110

- 24x Zoom
- Image stabiliser
- 2.5" flip-out screen
- Remote control
- DV in & out

£1099.00 0121 554 1878

## PANASONIC DVDA160

DVD PLAYER MULTI REGION

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0121 373 2120
£299.00

## PANASONIC DVD360

DVD PLAYER MULTI REGION

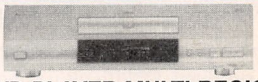
0121 554 1878
0121 373 2120
£399.00

## PANASONIC NVDS99

- New digital palmcorder

NOW
£849.00

## PIONEER DV717/DVL919



DV717 MULTIREGION .....£449
DVL919 MULTIREGION .....£699

## PANASONIC NVS33

- Small & lightweight
- 2.5" LCD screen
- 10x optical zoom

£749.00
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0121 373 2120

## JVC HRDVS 1EK

- Mini DV and Super VHS combi
- Nicam stereo
- Easy edit
- 4 head
- DV input

£949.00
0121 554 1878 0121 373 2120

## PANASONIC NVDS11

NVDS11
- 2.5" LCD
- 40 x Zoom
- New Digital Camera

£549.00
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## TOSHIBA

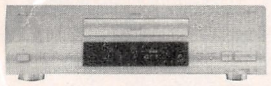
Dolby/3398 100Hz
Pro Logic 33" Dolby

- Dolby digital pro-logic
- Picture NR 16:9 mode
- NTSC 3.58/4.43MHz playback
- Three scarts
- Audio left/right phono out

£799.00

## PIONEER DV525

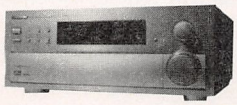
MULTIREGION



- New model
- Multi region

£299.00

## PIONEER VSAE07



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## TOSHIBA 43PJ93

- 43" rear projection Nicam TV

£1199.00

## TOSHIBA 40PW8

- 40" Widescreen
- Dolby Pro-Logic with Rear Surround Speakers
- 40" rear projection
- Dolby Digital
- 50 watts RMS

HOME CINEMA BUY

40PW8 SALE £1499.00

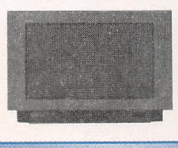
## TOSHIBA 32MW8/32MW7

- 32" superflat widescreen
- Invar mask • 100 Hz
- 5 speaker Dolby pro-logic
- 90W RMS output
- Subwoofer
- Built-in centre speaker
- 5 mode DSP
- NTSC video playback

£899.00

## TOSHIBA 61PG98

- 56" Screen
- Dolby pro-logic
- Projection television
- Ni-cam digital stereo



£2599.00

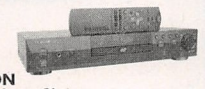
## TOSHIBA SD2109

DVD PLAYER

- DTS
- DVD Player
- Advanced Sound & Picture

MULTIREGION

- DVD Player • Home Cinema
- Advanced sound and picture



£259.00

## PANASONIC NVHS900B/850B

- 4 Head • Jog/Shuttle • Video Plus
- NTSC Playback • S-VHS

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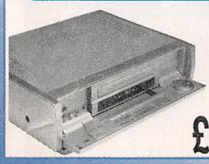
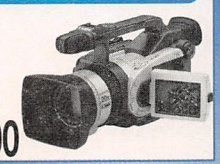
## JVC HMDR10000 EK



£1099.00

## CANON XM1



£1499.00

## PIONEER PDV LC10

£989.00

## PANASONIC NVDS8

£499.00

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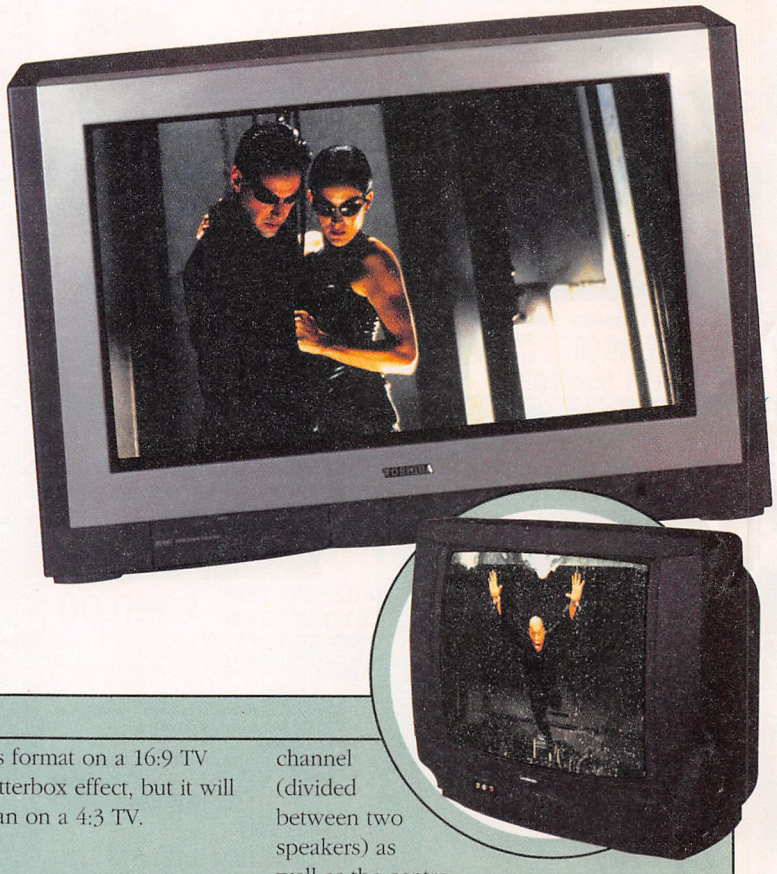
# BUYERS GUIDE

## Your guide to the world of TVs, video recorders, DVD players, camcorders, home cinema audio and much more



Until recently there wasn't much difference between TVs except size, teletext and Nicam stereo sound. Now there's widescreen, flatscreen, Dolby Pro-Logic and Dolby Digital. The same applies to VCRs, which will now join camcorders in the digital realm and soon the whole process of using cassettes will be replaced by hard drive recorders and rewriteable DVD. Here are a few basic pointers to accompany our *Buyers' Guide* pages.

### PRICES

The prices that we quote are typical retail prices. Since the abolition of recommended retail prices for certain consumer electronics items, prices can vary widely (and occasionally pricing for brand-new products is difficult to find until they reach retailers). If you look through the advertisers in the magazine, you will probably be able to find products selling for far less. If this does happen, then use your own judgement to make an upgrade to our value ratings in Section 2.

## TVs

### 4:3 SCREEN RATIO

The traditional, almost square shape of screen still used for a large number of TV broadcasts. Due to their proliferation, these kinds of sets are the cheapest, especially if you choose no-frills models, although features like teletext and Nicam stereo are now almost standard. A drawback is that on smaller screen sizes, widescreen programming must be viewed in 'letterbox' format, making the actual image size comparatively less. Most DVD films, for example, are only available in widescreen.

### 16:9 WIDESCREEN RATIO

Widescreen sets are fast catching up and will eventually be the norm. A large (eg 32in) 16:9 ratio screen will produce an image height similar to a 25in 4:3 TV, but of course will have extra width – ideal for watching films (if broadcast in widescreen or played from widescreen video or disc). Prices are generally higher than for 4:3 TVs, but there are already examples of bargain widescreen sets. Remember to check the number and type of connections, such as Scart sockets, etc and make sure they are adequate for your needs.

NB: cinema ratios vary and the widest currently in use, the Cinemascope or Panavision type, is actually 2.35:1 (or 21:9). Watching films in this format on a 16:9 TV will still result in a letterbox effect, but it will be less noticeable than on a 4:3 TV.

### PROJECTION SYSTEMS

For when size really does matter, rear-projection TVs (or alternatively, video projectors plus a cinema-style screen) are the most cost-effective way to go. Plasma TVs and other flatscreen technology has yet to establish itself as a consumer proposition due to the sheer cost. Rear-projection sets, though still rather costly, are lightweight and slimline compared to hefty cathode ray tube (CRT) TVs.

They are best suited for digitally based media such as digital TV and DVD. The large image size can exaggerate deficiencies in the picture quality and image brightness, contrast and colour convergence do not always compare well with CRT.

### STEREO AND SURROUND SOUND TVs

Now a fixture of TVs and most VCRs, Nicam stereo is rapidly being overtaken by surround systems. Dolby Pro-Logic has existed for years but is still being as a state-of-the-art feature in some new TVs. This isn't really true – it only supplies one rear music/effects channel (divided between two speakers) as well as the centre channel, but in the UK for the time being, only DVD carries the superior Dolby Digital (see *Home Cinema* below).

TVs with built-in Dolby Digital are still in the minority, but the spread of DVD is changing this. TVs and players with 'pseudo-surround' manipulate stereo effects to simulate the effect of rear speakers. Some TVs offer the option of adding actual speakers as they often use Pro-Logic. Pseudo-surround is best regarded as expanded stereo and is no substitute for true surround.

### INTEGRATED DIGITAL TVs

These next-generation breeds of TV will handle both standard analogue and digital broadcasting. Most are designed for terrestrial (ONdigital) use, though many come as 'free-to-air' receivers only. Modules are supposedly being developed to enable smart card (subscription channel) access, as well as possible cross-platform compatibility between digital satellite and terrestrial. IDTVs are a neat but still comparatively expensive solution given that set-top boxes are free to subscribers for the forseeable future.

## VIDEO CASSETTE RECORDERS

Due to the vast numbers of VHS cassettes in existence, there's still life in the traditional VCR. Long play (LP) and Index Search are now standard features. NTSC playback compatibility is fast becoming commonplace, as are VideoPlus and PDC (programme delivery control), which make timer recording easier and more reliable. Main choices will be between audio formats (mono or stereo – the latter becoming so cheap that mono-only decks could vanish altogether) and format (VHS, the superior S-VHS and the latest enhancement – D-VHS with digital recording).

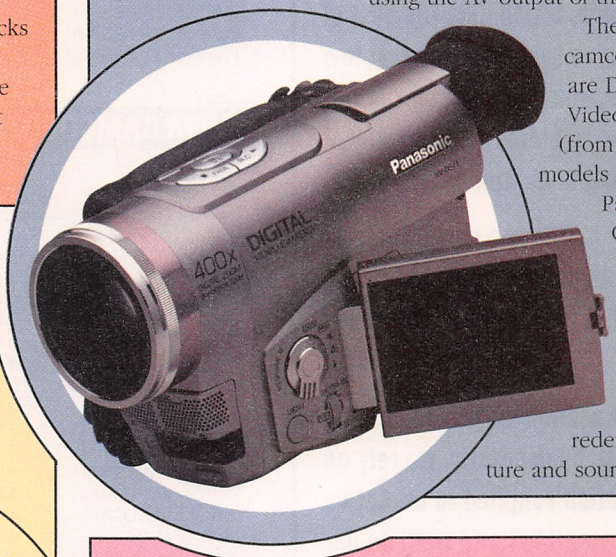
There are also the intermediate and dual-format dubbing decks that use 8mm and/or DV camcorder formats, and in some cases combine them with VHS or S-VHS. Other features on the humble VCR to consider include editing-orientated features such as front AV input, audio dubbing and jog/shuttle tape motion controls, but don't pay for these if you don't really need them.

## CAMCORDERS

Camcorders used to be judged on size, but now most are palm-sized regardless of format – and most models now incorporate image stabilisation devices to counter picture shake. Some camcorders offer basic onboard editing facilities and features such as hi-fi stereo sound – decide how important these are for you.

VHS is the standard home format, and the one that virtually all pre-recorded video tapes come in. Full-sized VHS camcorders have largely been replaced by compact VHS-C and S-VHS-C versions. Adaptors mean the small cassettes will play in VHS and S-VHS VCRs respectively.

8mm formats are more compact, standard 8mm being roughly equivalent in picture quality to VHS and Hi8 to S-VHS. These can't be played in VHS decks, so they have to be viewed or copied off using the AV output of the camcorder.




The latest and best camcorder formats are DV (Digital Video) and Digital8 (from Sony). DV models from Sony, Panasonic, Canon, Samsung, Sharp and JVC, with superb sound and picture quality, are redefining both picture and sound performance.

## HOME CINEMA

Separates-based home cinema systems inevitably offer better sound quality than all-in-one Dolby Pro-Logic TVs. If you have an existing hi-fi amplifier you'll need a separate decoder for surround sound (eg Dolby Digital). Otherwise, go for an integrated surround sound amp or a receiver (if you want a built-in radio tuner). Processors amplify the effects channels only. Subwoofers can be added to boost bass output and allow the use of less visually intrusive main-channel speakers.

THX (Tomlinson Holman's experiment) is a stringent variant of DPL. You'll need THX-rated software, decoders and speakers to benefit. Dolby's Digital format, formerly known as AC-3, offers quite spectacular results, thanks to the five channels of discrete audio, and a dedicated subwoofer channel. In the UK, only DVDs are able to offer Dolby Digital soundtracks. DTS is another alternative 5.1-channel format available on NTSC laser disc and a few DVDs. Video inputs, such as S-video, are used to feed the playback source via the surround sound unit and superimpose menu/operating data on request.

## DVD (DIGITAL VERSATILE DISC)

This fast-growing format has quickly replaced laser discs as the format for home entertainment with more movies, music and other material becoming available all the time. Region 2 (Europe and Japan) players are PAL- and NTSC-compatible, though unless the machine is modified it won't play Region 1 (USA) titles.

Nearly all players will output NTSC as pure NTSC, so ensure that your television is also NTSC-compatible as well. A small number of players (eg Samsungs) convert or partially convert NTSC to PAL.

Most players have Scart connections allowing RGB output (the best way to view discs) or S-video (the next best). Opinion is divided as to whether optical or coaxial digital output is best for connecting to Dolby Digital/DTS surround sound systems. Players with 5.1-channel outputs mean that a separate Dolby Digital decoder isn't necessary, just a surround sound amplifier with suitable inputs.

All DVD players should play CDs and Video CDs, though only a few models will play back recordable or re-recordable CD media (for those who burn their own CDs). Certain players have compatibility problems with certain discs (for example, the Proline DVD1000 won't play *The Matrix*), so check our reviews before buying a player ❐

# CURRENT products

**This section lists the current ranges from our major suppliers across our core product areas. We're doing this because we just don't have enough space to review every single product out there – so this way we can at least provide you with some of the most essential information.**

**Along with the second section of the *Buyers' Guide*, which lists the best of what we've seen over the last few years, you can also refer to our *Reprints* page to obtain a full review of tests dating back four or five years.**

**With the current rate of technological progress, anything beyond that would need to be listed under antiquities!**

**This section will be constantly updated but, by necessity, we rely on the information supplied to us. Let us know what you think and we'll do our best to deliver**

## VHS-C CAMCORDERS

| Model | Focal range | Image stabiliser | Manual exposure | Manual focus | External mic. | Audio system | Audio dub | Weight (kg) | Colour VF/monitor | Guide price |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bush VCC200 | 4.6-46/10x | | | ● | | M | | 0.98 | | £300 |
| JVC GR-AX280 | 3.8-83.6/22x | | ● | ● | | M | | 0.80 | | £300 |
| JVC GR-FX10 | 3.9-62.4/16x | ● | ● | ● | | M | | 0.90 | | £400 |
| JVC GR-FXM15 | 3.9-62.4/16x | ● | ● | ● | | M | | 0.90 | | £500 |
| JVC GR-FXM65 | 3.9-62.4/16x | ● | ● | ● | | M | | 0.97 | | £650 |
| Panasonic NV-RX14 | 3.8-79.8/22x | | | ● | | M | | 0.95 | | £350 |
| Panasonic NV-RX24 | 3.7-81.4/22x | ● | | ● | | M | | 0.95 | | £400 |
| Panasonic NV-RX64 | 3.7-81.4/22x | ● | | ● | | M | | 0.95 | | £500 |
| Panasonic NV-VX24 | 3.7-81.4/22x | | | ● | | M | | 0.95 | | £550 |
| Panasonic NV-VX44 | 3.7-81.4/22x | | | ● | | M | | 0.95 | | £600 |
| Panasonic NV-VX54 | 3.7-81.4/22x | ● | | ● | | M | | 0.95 | | £650 |

## S-VHS-C CAMCORDERS

| Model | Focal range | Image stabiliser | Manual exposure | Manual focus | External mic. | Audio system | Audio dub | Weight (kg) | Colour VF/monitor | Guide price |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| JVC GR-SX20 | 3.9-62.4/16x | ● | ● | ● | | M | | 1.06 | | £450 |
| JVC GR-SRM25 | 3.9-62.4/16x | ● | ● | ● | | M | | 1.06 | | £600 |
| Panasonic NV-SX30 | 3.9-66.3/17x | ● | | ● | ● | S | | 0.80 | | £400 |
| Panasonic NV-SX50 | 3.9-66.3/17x | ● | ● | ● | ● | S | ● | 0.8 | ● | £450 |

## 8MM CAMCORDERS

| Model | Focal range | Image stabiliser | Manual exposure | Manual focus | External mic. | Audio system | Weight (kg) | Colour view-finder/monitor | Guide price |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Canon UC-8000 | 4-88/22x | | ● | ● | ● | M | 0.94 | | £350 |
| Canon UC-9500 | 4-88/22x | ● | ● | ● | ● | M | 0.94 | ● | £430 |
| Canon UC-V200 | 4-88/22x | ● | | ● | ● | M | 1.09 | ● | £350 |
| Canon UC-V300 | 4-88/22x | ● | | ● | ● | M | 1.09 | ● | £430 |
| Hitachi VM-E330 | 4-64/16x | | | ● | | M | 0.89 | | £350 |
| Hitachi VM-E535 | 4-64/16x | | | ● | | M | 1.10 | | £500 |
| Samsung VP-A20 | 3.9-62.4/16x | | | | ● | M | 0.87 | | £330 |
| Samsung VP-A22 | 3.9-62.4/16x | ● | | | ● | M | 0.87 | | £330 |
| Samsung VP-L90 | 3.9-62.4/16x | | | ● | ● | S | 1.82 | ● | £600 |
| Samsung VP-L100 | 3.9-62.4/16x | | ● | | | M | 0.95 | | £430 |
| Samsung VP-L150 | 3.9-62.4/16x | ● | ● | | | M | 0.95 | | £470 |
| Sanyo VM-EX580 | 4-64/16x | | | | | S | 0.88 | ● | £250 |
| Sanyo VM-LC100 | 4.0-64x16x | | | | | M | 1.00 | | £300 |
| Sanyo VM-LC200 | 4.0-64/16x | ● | | | | M | 1.00 | ● | £700 |
| Sharp VL-S1 | 4.0-64/16x | ● | | ● | | S | 0.86 | ● | £400 |
| Sharp VL-SE10 | 4.0-64/16x | ● | | ● | | S | 0.86 | ● | £600 |
| Sharp VL-E610 | 4.0-64/16x | | | ● | | M | 0.90 | ● | £390 |
| Sharp VL-E760 | 4.0-64/16x | ● | | ● | | M | 0.80 | ● | £470 |
| Sony CCD-TR425E | 4.1-73.8/18x | | | ● | ● | M | 0.77 | | £450 |
| Sony CCD-TRV27E | 4.1-73.8/18x | | | ● | ● | M | 0.89 | | £550 |
| Sony RUVI (cartridge) | 3.4-10.2/3x | | | | | M | 0.47 | ● | £550 |

## Hi8 CAMCORDERS

| Model | Focal range | Image stabiliser | Manual exposure | Manual focus | External mic. | Audio system | Weight (kg) | Colour view-finder/monitor | Guide price |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Canon UC-V20Hi | 3.9-85.8/22x | ● | | | ● | S | 1.09 | | £530 |
| Canon UC-V30Hi | 3.9-85.8/22x | ● | | ● | ● | S | 1.09 | ● | £550 |
| Hitachi VM-H520 | 4-48/12x | | | ● | ● | S | 1.02 | | £800 |
| Samsung VP-A55 | 3.9-62.4/16x | ● | | ● | | S | 1.00 | | £630 |
| Samsung VP-L95 | 3.9-62.4/16x | ● | | ● | ● | S | 1.92 | ● | £750 |
| Sharp VL-H770 | 4.2-50.4/12x | ● | | ● | ● | S | 0.87 | ● | £800 |
| Sharp VL-H550H | 4.2-50.4/12x | ● | ● | ● | | S | 1.00 | | £1,400 |
| Sony CCD-TRV36E | 4.1-73.8/18x | | ● | ● | ● | M | 0.89 | | £600 |
| Sony CCD-TRV46E | 4.1-73.8/18x | | ● | ● | ● | M | 0.90 | | £650 |
| Sony CCD-TRV66E | 3.6-72/20x | ● | ● | ● | ● | S | 0.90 | ● | £700 |
| Sony CCD-TR515E | 4.1-73.8/18x | | ● | ● | ● | M | 0.80 | | £500 |
| Sony CCD-TR713E | 4.1-73.8/18x | ● | ● | ● | ● | M | 0.82 | | £550 |
| Sony CCD-TR913E | 3.6-72/20x | ● | ● | ● | ● | S | 0.81 | | £600 |

## DIGITAL8 CAMCORDERS

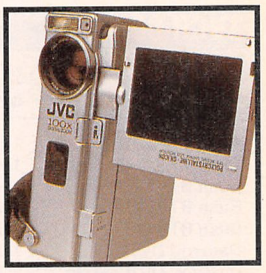
| Model | Focal range | Image stabiliser | Manual exposure | Manual focus | External mic. | Audio system | Weight (kg) | Colour view-finder/monitor | Guide price |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sony CCD-TR7000E | 3.6-72/20x | ● | ● | ● | ● | S | 0.93 | ● | £700 |
| Sony CCD-TRV110E | 3.6-72/20x | ● | ● | ● | ● | S | 0.93 | ● | £800 |
| Sony CCD-TRV310E | 3.6-72/20x | ● | ● | ● | ● | S | 0.96 | ● | £900 |
| Sony CCD-TRV510E | 3.6-72/20x | ● | ● | ● | ● | S | 0.93 | ● | £1,100 |

### KEY TO CAMCORDER TABLES

**Focal Range:** Indicates the range of angles which the lens can convert at its wide and tele settings.
**Image Stabiliser:** Built-in anti-shake mechanism.
**Exposure Control:** Exposure in many camcorders is fully automatic, but some have a backlight compensator for shooting against the light, or a manual iris for deliberate under- or over-exposure.
**Manual focus :** Serious users often prefer a manual option for greater control.
**External Mic:** A socket to plug in an off-camera microphone.
**Audio System:** Mono or stereo.
**Audio Dub:** Replaces soundtrack without interfering with the picture.
**Weight:** Including supplied battery and cassette.
**Colour Viewfinder:** As distinct from the black-and-white variety.

## DV CAMCORDERS

| Model | Focal range | Image stabiliser | Manual exposure | Manual focus | External mic. | Audio system | Audio dub | Weight (kg) | Colour viewfinder/monitor | Guide price |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Canon DM-MV200 | 3.9-62.4/16x | ● | ● | ● | ● | S | | 0.85 | ● | £800 |
| Canon DM-MV20 | 4.1-49.2/12x | ● | ● | ● | | S | ● | 0.69 | ● | £900 |
| Canon DM-MV1 | 5.2-72.8/14x | ● | ● | ● | ● | S | | 1.07 | ● | £1,000 |
| Canon DM-XL1 | 5.5-88/16x | ● | ● | ● | ● | S | | 2.86 | ● | £2,700 |
| JVC GR-DVL20 | 3.9-62.4/16x | ● | ● | ● | ● | S | ● | 0.79 | ● | £600 |
| JVC GR-DVL30 | 3.9-62.4/16x | ● | ● | ● | ● | S | ● | 0.79 | ● | £650 |
| JVC GR-DVL40 | 3.9-62.4/16x | ● | ● | ● | ● | S | ● | 0.79 | ● | £700 |
| JVC GR-DVX4 | 3.6-36/10x | ● | ● | ● | ● | S | ● | 0.65 | ● | £1,100 |
| JVC GR-DVX7 | 3.6-36/10x | ● | ● | ● | ● | S | ● | 0.65 | ● | £1,200 |
| JVC GR-DVL9500 | 5-50/10x | ● | ● | ● | ● | S | ● | 0.77 | ● | £1,400 |
| JVC GR-DVL9600 | 5-50/10x | ● | ● | ● | ● | S | ● | 0.77 | ● | £1,600 |
| Panasonic NV-DS8 | 3.8-76/20x | ● | ● | ● | ● | S | ● | 0.64 | ● | £600 |
| Panasonic NV-DS11 | 3.8-76/20x | ● | ● | ● | ● | S | ● | 0.64 | ● | £700 |
| Panasonic NV-DS33 | 3.6-36/10x | ● | ● | ● | ● | S | ● | 0.60 | ● | £1,200 |
| Panasonic NV-DS99 | 3.6-36/10x | ● | ● | ● | ● | S | ● | 0.60 | ● | £1,200 |
| Panasonic NV-EX3 | 3.6-36/10x | ● | ● | ● | ● | S | ● | 0.53 | ● | £1,400 |
| Panasonic NV-DX100 | 4.2-47.7/12x | ● | ● | ● | ● | S | ● | 0.70 | ● | £1,400 |
| Panasonic NV-DX110 | 4.2-47.7/12x | ● | ● | ● | ● | S | ● | 0.70 | ● | £1,600 |
| Sharp VL-DC3 | 4.5-45/10x | ● | ● | ● | ● | S | ● | 0.80 | ● | £1,100 |
| Sharp VL-PD3 | 4.7-47/10x | ● | | ● | ● | S | ● | 0.66 | ● | £1,200 |
| Sony DCR-PC1 | 3.3-33/10x | ● | ● | ● | ● | S | ● | 0.46 | ● | £1,100 |
| Sony DCR-PC3 | 3.3-33/10x | ● | ● | ● | ● | S | ● | 0.63 | ● | £1,300 |
| Sony DCR-TRV10 | 3.3-33/10x | ● | ● | ● | ● | S | ● | 0.65 | ● | £1,300 |
| Sony DCR-TRV890 | 4.3-51.6/12x | ● | ● | ● | ● | S | ● | 0.88 | ● | £1,500 |
| Sony DCR-PC100 | 3.3-33/10x | ● | ● | ● | ● | S | ● | 0.65 | ● | £1,600 |
| Sony DCR-TRV900 | 4.3-51.6/12x | ● | ● | ● | ● | S | ● | 0.88 | ● | £1,600 |
| Sony DCR-VX1000 | 5.9-59/10x | ● | ● | ● | ● | S | ● | 1.5 | ● | £2,000 |
| Sony DCR-VX9000 | 5.9-59/10x | ● | ● | ● | ● | S | ● | 3.4 | | £2,600 |




## KEY TO DVD PLAYERS

**System:** Almost all Region 2 players are NTSC-compatible as well as PAL, because Japan is included in R2 and uses NTSC. This does not denote Region 1 compatibility, although American discs coded Region 0 will play on these players.

**RGB (Red/Green/Blue):** The best way to view an AV input, usually via Scart. Check for TV compatibility.

**S-video:** Second-best way to view an AV input, either via Scart or dedicated S-video input. **Scart:** An inidication of the number of sockets.

**Digital output (for bitstream audio connection to surround sound decoder):** O= optical digtial output via fibre optic connection; C= coaxial digital output. Opinions vary as to which is best, so ideally look to have both.

**DTS (Digital Theatre Systems):** Rival 5.1-surround sound system to Dolby Digital. Connect player's digital output to a compatible receiver.

**Dolby Digital 5.1 outputs:** This means the Dolby Digital 5.1 channels are decoded internally & can be connected directly by phono sockets to a surround sound amplifier (a dedicated decoder/receiver is not required).

**Comments:** any additional notes of interest, eg CD-R/RW-compatible – will play recordable CD media; component video out – suitable for high-end TVs and projectors; quasi-PAL NTSC conversion – converts NTSC to PAL or PAL60 for TVs without full NTSC compatibility.

## DVD PLAYERS

| System | Model | RGB | S-video | Scart | Digital output | DTS | Dolby Digital 5.1 outputs | Guide price | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| PAL/NTSC | Denon DVD-2500 | ● | ● | 2 | O/C | ● | | | |
| PAL/NTSC | Denon DVD-3000 | ● | ● | 2 | O/C | | ● | £700 | |
| PAL/NTSC | Denon DVD-5000 | ● | ● | 0 | O/C | | | £1,600 | |
| PAL/NTSC | Grundig GDV 100D | ● | | 1 | C | | | £530 | |
| PAL/NTSC | Hitachi DV-P250 | ● | ● | 2 | O/C | ● | | £299 | CD-R/RW-compatible |
| PAL/NTSC | JVC XV-501BK | ● | ● | 2 | O/C | ● | | | |
| PAL/NTSC | JVC XV-505GD | ● | ● | 2 | O/C | ● | | | |
| PAL/NTSC | JVC XV-701GD | ● | ● | 2 | O/C | ● | ● | | |
| PAL/NTSC | Kenwood DVF-5010 | ● | ● | 2 | O/C | | ● | | |
| PAL/NTSC | Kenwood DVF-9010 | ● | ● | 2 | O/C | | ● | | |
| PAL/NTSC | LG DVD-2330 | ● | ● | 1 | O/C | ● | | | CD-R/RW-compatible |
| PAL/NTSC | LG DVD-2380 | ● | ● | 1 | O/C | ● | ● | | CD-R/RW-compatible |
| PAL/NTSC | Onkyo DV-S525 | ● | ● | 2 | O/C | ● | | £500 | |
| PAL/NTSC | Panasonic DVD-A360 | ● | ● | 2 | O/C | ● | ● | £580 | |
| PAL/NTSC | Panasonic DVD-L50 | | ● | 0 | O | ● | | £900 | portable with LCD screen |
| PAL/NTSC | Panasonic CX-DV1500 | | | 0 | O/C | ● | ● | £2,500 | in-car system with LCD monitor |
| PAL/NTSC | Philips DVD710 | | | | C | | | £280 | |
| PAL/NTSC | Pioneer DVL-909 | | ● | 2 | O/C | | | £900 | CD-R/RW-compatible |
| PAL/NTSC | Pioneer DVL-919 | | | | O/C | | | | |
| PAL/NTSC | Pioneer DV-717 | ● | ● | 2 | O/C | | | £600 | CD-R/RW-compatible |
| PAL/NTSC | Pioneer DV-515 | ● | ● | 1 | O/C | | | £450 | |
| PAL/NTSC | Pioneer DV-525 | ● | ● | 1 | O/C | ● | | £300 | CD-R/RW-compatible |
| PAL/NTSC | Pioneer DV-626 | ● | ● | 1 | O/C | ● | ● | £450 | CD-R/RW-compatible |
| PAL/NTSC | Pioneer PDV-LC10 | | ● | 0 | O/C | ● | | | portable with LCD screen |
| PAL/NTSC | Samsung DVD-709 | ● | ● | 1 | C | ● | | £250 | Quasi-PAL NTSC conversion |
| PAL/NTSC | Samsung DVD-909 | ● | ● | 1 | O/C | ● | ● | £380 | Quasi-PAL NTSC conversion |
| PAL/NTSC | Samsung MAX-945D | | | 0 | | | | £500 | 3-tray audio/DVD Mini system with Pro-Logic |
| PAL/NTSC | Sharp DV-560H | ● | ● | 1 | O/C | | ● | | |
| PAL/NTSC | Sony DVP-S325 | ● | ● | 2 | O/C | ● | | £400 | |
| PAL/NTSC | Sony DVP-S525 | ● | ● | 2 | O/C | ● | ● | £450 | |
| PAL/NTSC | Sony DVP-S725 | ● | ● | 2 | O/C | ● | ● | £550 | Component video out |
| PAL/NTSC | Sony DVP-S7700 | ● | ● | 2 | O/C | ● | | | Component video out |
| PAL/NTSC | Sony DVP-CX850 | ● | ● | 2 | O/C | ● | ● | | 200-disc changer |
| PAL/NTSC | Sony DVP-F11 | | ● | 0 | O/C | ● | | | Compact player |
| PAL/NTSC | Sony PBD-V30 | | ● | 0 | O | | | | Portable |
| PAL/NTSC | Thomson DTH 3300 | ● | ● | 2 | O/C | ● | | £330 | |
| PAL/NTSC | Thomson DTH 3600 | ● | ● | 2 | O/C | ● | ● | £400 | |
| PAL/NTSC | Toshiba SD-2109 | ● | ● | 1 | C | ● | | £350 | |
| PAL/NTSC | Toshiba SD-3109 | ● | ● | 1 | O/C | ● | ● | £500 | Twin-tray/HDCD compatible |
| PAL/NTSC | Toshiba SD-9000 | | ● | 0 | O/C | ● | ● | | Component video out |
| PAL/NTSC | Yamaha DVD-S795 | ● | ● | 2 | O/C | ● | ● | £530 | |

## TVCR COMBIS

| Model | Screen size | Teletext | Twin tuner | VideoPlus | PDC | Scart sockets | Front AV sockets | NTSC playback | Guide price | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aiwa VX-G142 | 14in | | | ● | | 0 | ● | ● | £230 | |
| Aiwa VX-G147 | 14in | ● | | ● | ● | 0 | | ● | £280 | 2 front speakers (mono) |
| Bush BTV14 | 14in | | | | | 1 | | | | |
| Bush BTV140T | 14in | ● | | | | 1 | | | | |
| Bush BTV17 | 14in | | | | | 1 | | | | |
| Daewoo DVT-1482P | 14in | | | ● | | ● | | ● | | |
| Daewoo DVT-2082P | 20in | | | ● | | ● | | ● | | |
| Daewoo DVT-5582P | 21in | ● | ● | ● | | 1 | ● | ● | £350 | |
| Ferguson C3615UT | 14in | ● | | ● | ● | 1 | ● | ● | | |
| Goodmans TVC201T | 20in | ● | ● | ● | ● | 1 | ● | ● | £250 | |
| Grundig TVR3730 | 14in | ● | ● | ● | ● | 1 | | ● | | |
| Grundig TVR5150 | 20in | ● | ● | ● | ● | 1 | | ● | | |
| Hitachi 1420VT | 14in | ● | | ● | ● | 1 | | ● | | |
| LG KI 14U71X | 14in | ● | | | | 1 | ● | ● | £300 | |
| Philips 14PV320 | 14in | ● | ● | ● | ● | 2 | ● | ● | £330 | |
| Philips 14PV340 | 14in | ● | | ● | ● | 1 | ● | ● | £330 | Alarm clock radio |
| Philips 20PV220 | 20in | ● | ● | ● | ● | 1 | ● | | £380 | |
| Philips 21PV320 | 21in | ● | ● | ● | ● | 2 | ● | ● | £430 | |
| Philips 25PV720 | 25in | ● | ● | ● | ● | 2 | ● | ● | £600 | Dolby Pro-Logic |
| Samsung TI14C | 14in | | | | | 1 | ● | ● | £250 | |
| Samsung TI14C3T | 14in | ● | | | | 1 | ● | ● | £250 | |
| Samsung TI14C5DF | 14in | ● | ● | ● | | 1 | ● | ● | £300 | |
| Samsung TI20C5DF | 20in | ● | ● | ● | | 1 | ● | ● | £350 | |
| Samsung TI21B5DF | 21in | ● | ● | ● | | 1 | ● | ● | £400 | |
| Samsung TI21B5N | 21in | ● | ● | ● | | 1 | ● | ● | £430 | Nicam stereo |
| Sharp 37-AT2SH | 14in | ● | | ● | | 1 | ● | | £200 | |
| Sony KV-14V5 | 14in | ● | | ● | ● | 1 | ● | ● | £380 | |
| Sony KV-14V6 | 14in | ● | ● | ● | ● | 1 | ● | ● | £340 | |
| Sony KV-21V6 | 21in | ● | ● | ● | ● | 1 | ● | ● | £450 | |
| Tatung TVC 562 | 14in | | | | | 1 | | | | |
| Thomson 14CB25UT | 14in | ● | ● | ● | ● | 1 | ● | ● | | |
| Thomson 20CB25UT | 20in | ● | ● | ● | ● | 1 | ● | ● | | |

## 20-21IN NICAM TVs

| Model | Screen size | Scart | S-video | Front AV Inputs | Audio outputs | Headph socket | Guide price |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aiwa TV-SE211 | 21in | 2 | | ● | | ● | |
| Akai TV2034-TN UK | 20in | 1 | | | ● | ● | £230 |
| Bush 2028NTX | 20in | 1 | | | ● | | |
| Bush 2068NTX | 20in | 1 | | | ● | | |
| Bush 2071NTX | 20in | 1 | | | ● | | |
| Bush 2167NTX | 21in | 1 | | | | | £260 |
| Bush 2171NTX | 21in | 1 | | | | | |
| Bush 2190D (IDTV) | 21in | 1 | | | | | £300 |
| Ferguson M5518U | 21in | 2 | ● | | | ● | |
| Grundig ST55-725aFT | 21in | 2 | ● | ● | | ● | |
| Hitachi C2156TN | 21in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | ● | £300 |
| JVC AV-21TS2 | 21in | 2 | ● | ● | | ● | £330 |
| JVC AV-21TS4 | 21in | 2 | ● | ● | | ● | |
| Panasonic TX-21MD4 | 21in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | ● | £300 |
| Panasonic TX-21MK1 | 21in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | | £300 |
| Panasonic TX-AD2 | 21in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | ● | £340 |
| Sanyo 21DN3 | 21in | 2 | | ● | | ● | £330 |
| Sharp 51-DSO2H | 21in | 2 | ● | | | ● | £270 |
| Sharp 51-DSO3H | 21in | 2 | ● | | | ● | £280 |
| Sharp DSO5H(GY) | 21in | 2 | ● | | | ● | £300 |
| Sony KV21T3 | 21in | 1 | | ● | | ● | |
| Sony KV21X5 | 21in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | ● | |
| Tatung T20 TF70 | 20in | 1 | | | | | |
| Thomson 21DK24U | 21in | 2 | ● | ● | | ● | |
| Thorn CT51 4TN | 21in | 2 | ● | | ● | ● | £385 |
| Toshiba 2173DB | 21in | 2 | ● | ● | | ● | £380 |

## 4:3 25IN NICAM TVs

| Model | Scart | S-video | Front AV inputs | Audio outputs | Headph socket | Guide price |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Akai TV2551TN | 2 | ● | ● | | ● | £380 |
| Ferguson M6322U | 2 | ● | ● | | ● | |
| Goodmans 255NS | 2 | | ● | | ● | £370 |
| Hitachi C2556TN | 2 | ● | ● | ● | ● | £400 |
| JVC AV-25BD3 | 2 | ● | ● | ● | ● | |
| JVC AV-25TS4 | 2 | ● | ● | ● | ● | |
| Mitsubishi C25C7B | 2 | | | ● | ● | £500 |
| Panasonic TX-25MD4 | 2 | ● | ● | ● | ● | £400 |
| Panasonic TX-25XD4 | 2 | ● | ● | ● | ● | |
| Philips 25PT4494 | 2 | | | | ● | £380 |
| Philips 25PT4523 | 2 | ● | | ● | ● | £350 |
| Philips 25PT6322C | 2 | ● | ● | ● | ● | £550 |
| Sanyo 25DN3 | 2 | | ● | | ● | |
| Sharp 59-DSO3H | 2 | ● | | | ● | £360 |
| Sharp 59-DSO5H(Gy) | 2 | ● | | | ● | |
| Sony KV-25X5 | 2 | ● | ● | ● | ● | £400 |
| Tatung T25 NE61 | 1 | | | | | |
| Thomson 25DG24U | 2 | ● | ● | | ● | |
| Toshiba 2573DB | 2 | ● | ● | | ● | £400 |

## KEY TO REAR-PROJECTION TELEVISIONS

**System:** TV/video colour system.
**Screen Size:** Quoted screen size.
**Aspect Ratio:** 4:3 = standard, 16:9 = widescreen.
**Scart/S-Video:** These are listed to help with hook-up.
**Front AV Inputs:** Usually phono audio and video, and sometimes S-Video inputs, typically for easy camcorder or video game connection.
**Audio Outputs:** For connecting the TV to a hi-fi or AV system.
External Speaker Terminals: Provision for outboard loudspeakers.
**RGB:** Provision of direct red, green and blue drives to video amplifiers. If the Test Reprints page is missing from this issue please telephone 0171-331 1000 for guidance.
**100hz scanning:** Picture is refreshed at twice the normal rate to reduce flicker.

## KEY TO TELEVISIONS

**System:** All UK TVs use the PAL system. Many also accept NTSC signals from American or Japanese software. If a TV is also compatible with the European Secam system, it is classed as multi-standard. If it has NTSC playback we use the Pal/N symbol.
**Screen Size:** Quoted screen size. The actual size, measured diagonally from one corner to the opposite corner is usually around 1.5in less.
**Scart/S-Video:** The total amount of audio and video inputs, listed by type.
**Front AV Inputs:** Usually phono audio and video, sometimes S-Video inputs, for easy camcorder or video game connection.
**Audio Outputs:** For connecting the TV to a hi-fi or AV system.
**External Speaker Terminals:** For direct connection of additional speakers.
**RGB:** Some TVs will accept RGB signals, usually via a Scart socket, to display computer-generated images.
**Test Date:** If we've reviewed a TV you're interested in, you can order a copy from our Test Reprints service. If the Test Reprints page is missing from this issue please telephone 0171-331 1000 for guidance.
**100Hz** scanning: Picture is refreshed at twice the normal rate to reduce flicker.
**Screen sizes:** Manufacturers equivalent in cm are usually 51cm for 21in, 59cm for 25in, 68cm for 28, 70cm for 29in and 78cm for 33in And yes, we know these don't all add up mathematically.

## 14in PORTABLE TVs

| Model | Text | Scart sockets | Front AV inputs | Audio outputs | Headph socket | Guide price |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aiwa TV-SE141 | ● | 1 | ● | | ● | |
| Akai TV1420-TUK | ● | 1 | | | ● | |
| Akai TV1420UK | | 1 | | | ● | |
| Bush 1433 | | 1 | | | | £120 |
| Bush 1438 | | 1 | | | | |
| Bush 1439 | | 1 | | | | |
| Bush 1473T | ● | 1 | | | | |
| Bush 1478T | ● | 1 | | | | |
| Bush 1479T | ● | 1 | | | | |
| Bush 1493NTX | ● | 1 | | | | |
| Bush 1495N | | 1 | ● | | | £170 |
| Daewoo GB-14A5 | | 1 | ● | | ● | |
| Daewoo GB-14A5T | ● | 1 | ● | | ● | |
| Ferguson M3610U | | 1 | ● | | ● | |
| Ferguson M3615UT | ● | 1 | ● | | ● | |
| Grundig P37-080 | | 1 | | | ● | £100 |
| Grundig P37-830 | ● | 1 | | | ● | £110 |
| Grundig P37-830/12 | ● | 1 | | | ● | |
| Hitachi C1421T | ● | 1 | ● | | ● | |
| Hitachi C1422T | ● | 1 | ● | | ● | £180 |
| Hitachi C1432T | ● | ● | ● | | ● | |
| JVC C-J14EK | | 1 | ● | | ● | |
| JVC C-JT14EK | ● | 1 | ● | | ● | |
| Panasonic TC-14S3R | | 1 | ● | | ● | £130 |
| Panasonic TX-14C3TS | | 1 | ● | | ● | £190 |
| Panasonic TX-14S3T | | 1 | ● | | ● | £140 |
| Panasonic TX14S3T | ● | 1 | ● | | ● | £170 |
| Philips 14PT1363 | ● | 1 | | | ● | |
| Philips 14PT1563 | ● | 1 | | | ● | £150 |
| Samsung CI33732 | | 1 | ● | ● | ● | £170 |
| Sanyo 14M2 | | 1 | | | | |
| Sanyo MT2 | ● | 1 | | | | |
| Sharp 37-EM33H | | 1 | | | ● | £110 |
| Sharp 37-ET35H | ● | 1 | | | ● | £130 |
| Sony KV-14M1 | | 1 | ● | | ● | £150 |
| Sony KV-14T1 | ● | 1 | ● | | ● | £170 |
| Tatung T14 RF70 | | 1 | | | ● | |
| Tatung T14 TF70 | ● | 1 | | | ● | |
| Thomson 14MG10U | | 1 | | | ● | |
| Thomson S2014U | ● | 1 | ● | | | |
| Toshiba 1480RB | | 1 | ● | | ● | £140 |
| Toshiba 1480TB | ● | 1 | ● | | ● | £180 |
| Toshiba 14R01B | | | ● | | ● | |
| Toshiba 14T01B | ● | 1 | ● | | ● | |

## 4:3 28in-32in NICAM TVs

| Model | Screen size | Scart | S-video | Front AV inputs | Audio outputs | Guide price |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Akai 2851 | 28in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | £400 |
| Akai CT2867 | 28in | 2 | ● | ● | | £550 |
| Akai TV2851-TN | 28in | 2 | ● | ● | | |
| Bush 2870 VPL | 28in | 1 | | | | |
| Bush 2871NTX | 28in | 2 | | | | £350 |
| Ferguson M7021U | 29in | 2 | ● | | | |
| Ferguson M7022U | 28in | 2 | ● | ● | | |
| Grundig M72-410/9REF | 29in | 3 | | ● | ● | |
| Grundig ST70-270/8 | 28in | 2 | ● | ● | | |
| Grundig ST70-700NIC | 28in | 2 | | | | |
| Hitachi C2856TN | 28in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | £420 |
| JVC AV-29BD3 | 29in | 2 | ● | ● | | £460 |
| JVC AV-29BD3EK | 29in | 2 | ● | ● | | £460 |
| Panasonic TX-28MD4 | 28in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | £500 |
| Panasonic TX-28XD3 | 28in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | £550 |
| Panasonic TX-29AD2 | 29in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | £600 |
| Panasonic TX-29AK1 | 29in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | |
| Philips 28PT4494 | 28in | 2 | | | | £449 |
| Philips 28PT4523 | 28in | 2 | | | ● | £350 |
| Philips 29PT6773C | 29in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | £1,100 |
| Philips 29PT8413D | 29in | 3 | | ● | ● | £1,400 |
| Sanyo 28DN3 | 28in | 2 | | ● | | £430 |
| Sharp 66-ESO3H | 28in | 2 | ● | | | £460 |
| Sharp 66-ESO5H | 28in | 2 | ● | ● | | |
| Sony KV-29FX20 | 29in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | £750 |
| Sony KV-29X5 | 29in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | |
| Thomson 28DG24U | 28in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | |
| Toshiba 2873DB | 28in | 2 | ● | ● | | £500 |

## 4:3 PRO-LOGIC TVs

| Model | Screen size | Scart | S-video | Front AV inputs | Audio outputs | Guide price |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Grundig M72-410/9REF | 29in | 2 | ● | | ● | |
| Grundig M95-411/9REF | 37in | 3 | ● | | ● | |
| Grundig ST63 775DPL | 25in | 2 | ● | ● | | £600 |
| Grundig ST70-875DPL | 28in | 2 | ● | ● | | |
| Grundig ST84-896/FTLOG | 33in | 2 | ● | | ● | |
| Hitachi 2186TN | 21in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | £280 |
| Hitachi 2586TN | 25in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | £420 |
| JVC AV-25SX4EK | 25in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | |
| JVC AV-29SX4EK | 29in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | |
| LG CF-25A64DF | 25in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | £580 |
| Matsui 28 DPL | 28in | 2 | ● | ● | | £500 |
| Panasonic TX-25LD4DP | 25in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | £520 |
| Panasonic TX-28LD4DP | 28in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | £700 |
| Panasonic TX-29AD70DP | 29in | 3 | ● | ● | ● | £650 |
| Panasonic TX-33AK10 | 33in | 3 | ● | ● | ● | |
| Panasonic TX-29AD70 | 29in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | £1,100 |
| Philips 29PT6433D | 29in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | £900 |
| Philips 29PT9413D | 29in | 3 | ● | ● | ● | £485 |
| Samsung CW-30A90SD | 30in | 3 | ● | ● | ● | £900 |
| Sharp 59-ESD7H | 25in | 3 | ● | ● | | |
| Sharp 66-ESD7H | 28in | 3 | ● | ● | | |
| Thomson 33MS25UD | 33in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | |
| Toshiba 2987DB | 29in | 3 | ● | ● | ● | £750 |
| Toshiba 3387DB | 33in | 3 | ● | ● | ● | £1,400 |
| Toshiba 3787DB | 37in | 3 | ● | ● | ● | £2,000 |

## WIDESCREEN PRO-LOGIC TVs

| Model | Screen size | Scart | S-video | Front AV inputs | Audio outputs | Guide price |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Akai CT-W3257 | 32in | 2 | ● | ● | | £1,250 |
| Grundig 110/1F | 42in | 3 | ● | | ● | |
| Hitachi C28W35TN | 28in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | £1,300 |
| Hitachi C28W40DTN (IDTV) | 28in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | £1,100 |
| Hitachi C28WD2TNP | 28in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | £650 |
| Hitachi C32W35TN | 32in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | |
| Hitachi C32W40DTN | 32in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | £1,600 |
| Hitachi C32WD2NPW | 32in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | |
| Hitachi C32WD2TNPW | 32in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | £1,000 |
| JVC AV-28WR4 | 28in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | |
| JVC AV-28WR4EK | 28in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | |
| JVC AV-32WFD1EK | 32in | 3 | ● | ● | ● | |
| JVC AV-32WFP1 | 32in | 3 | ● | ● | ● | |
| JVC AV-32WR4 | 32in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | |
| Loewe Planus 4681Z | 32in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | £1,650 |
| Mitsubishi CT-28BW2BD | 28in | 2 | ● | ● | | £950 |
| Mitsubishi CT-32CW1BD | 32in | 3 | ● | ● | ● | £2,000 |
| Panasonic TX-32D2DP | 32in | 3 | ● | ● | ● | £1,700 |
| Panasonic TX-47PT1 | 47in | 3 | ● | ● | ● | £3,400 |
| Panasonic TX-W28D2DP | 28in | 3 | ● | ● | ● | £1,240 |
| Panasonic TX-W28R3DP | 28in | 3 | ● | ● | ● | £850 |
| Panasonic TX-W32D2DP | 32in | 3 | ● | ● | ● | £2,130 |
| Panasonic TX-W36D3DP | 36in | 3 | ● | ● | ● | £2,300 |
| Philips 28PW6332D | 28in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | £1,200 |
| Philips 28PW9623D | 28in | 3 | ● | ● | ● | £930 |
| Philips 28PW9763D | 28in | 3 | ● | ● | ● | £1,500 |
| Philips 29PT9413 | 29in | 3 | ● | ● | ● | £900 |
| Philips 32DW6834 | 32in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | |
| Philips 32PW9523D | 32in | 3 | ● | ● | ● | £1,600 |
| Philips 32PW9723D | 32in | 3 | ● | ● | ● | £1,500 |
| Philips 32PW9763/25 | 32in | 3 | ● | ● | ● | £1,900 |
| Sanyo 28WP1 | 28in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | £1,200 |
| Sanyo 28WP2 | 28in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | |
| Sanyo 32WN2 | 32in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | |
| Sanyo 32WP2 | 32in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | |
| Sharp 66DW-18H | 32in | 3 | ● | ● | ● | £1,300 |
| Sharp 66DW18H | 28in | 3 | ● | ● | | |
| Sharp 76DW-18H | 32in | 3 | ● | ● | | £1,300 |
| Sharp 76EF20H | 32in | 3 | ● | ● | | £1,800 |
| Sony KV-28DS60(S) | 28in | 3 | ● | ● | ● | £1,500 |
| Sony KV-28FD1 | 28in | 3 | ● | ● | ● | £1,600 |
| Sony KV-28WS2 | 28in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | £830 |
| Sony KV-32DS60 (IDTV) | 32in | 3 | ● | ● | ● | £2,000 |
| Sony KV-32FD1 | 32in | 3 | ● | ● | ● | £2,800 |
| Sony KV-32WS2 | 32in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | £1,250 |
| Thomson 28VK26UW | 28in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | |
| Thomson 32VK26UW | 32in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | |
| Thomson 32VK66UW | 32in | 3 | ● | ● | ● | |
| Toshiba 28W8DB | 28in | 3 | ● | ● | ● | £850 |
| Toshiba 32W8DB | 32in | 3 | ● | ● | ● | £1,200 |

## WIDESCREEN NICAM TVs

| Model | Screen size | Scart | S-video | Front AV inputs | Audio outputs | Guide price |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bush 6690D (IDTV) | 28in | 1 | | ● | | |
| Bush 7690D (IDTV) | 32in | 1 | | ● | | |
| Bush WS6667 | 28in | 2 | ● | | ● | £480 |
| Bush WS6671 | 28in | 2 | | ● | | |
| Bush WS7667 | 32in | 2 | ● | | ● | £900 |
| Bush WS7671 | 32in | 2 | | ● | | |
| Ferguson W7022U | 28in | 2 | ● | ● | | |
| Goodmans W288NS | 28in | 2 | ● | ● | | £400 |
| Grundig MW70-2690 | 28in | 2 | | ● | | |
| Grundig MW82-2690 | 32in | 2 | | ● | | |
| Hitachi C24W1TN | 24in | 2 | ● | ● | | £550 |
| Hitachi C28W1TN | 28in | 2 | ● | ● | | £600 |
| JVC AV-24WT2 | 24in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | £460 |
| JVC AV-28WT4 | 28in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | |
| LG WF-32A14T | 32in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | £1,000 |
| Loewe Credo 7570 ZP | 28in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | £2,000 |
| Panasonic TX-28PK10 | 28in | 2 | | | | |
| Panasonic TX-32PK1 | 32in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | |
| Panasonic TX-W28R3 | 28in | 3 | ● | ● | ● | £680 |
| Panasonic TX-W32D2 | 32in | 3 | ● | ● | ● | £1,400 |
| Panasonic TX-32PF10 | 32in | 3 | ● | ● | ● | £1,400 |
| Philips 32PW9534D | 32in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | |
| Philips 32PW9544D | 32in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | |
| Sanyo 28WN2 | 28in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | |
| Schneider 2816 | 28in | 2 | | | | £500 |
| Sony KV-24WX1 | 24in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | £480 |
| Sony KV-28FC60Z | 28in | 3 | ● | ● | ● | |
| Sony KV-28FX20 | 28in | 3 | ● | ● | ● | |
| Sony KV-28FX60 | 28in | 3 | ● | ● | ● | £1,100 |
| Sony KV-28WF1 | 28in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | £700 |

## WIDESCREEN NICAM TVs (CONT)

| Model | Screen size | Scart | S-video | Front AV inputs | Audio outputs | Guide price |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sony KV-32FC60Z | 32in | 3 | ● | ● | ● | |
| Sony KV-32FX20 | 32in | 3 | ● | ● | ● | |
| Sony KV-32FX60 | 32in | 3 | ● | ● | ● | |
| Sony KV-32WF1(S) | 32in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | £1,000 |
| Tatung T28440 | 28in | 2 | ● | | | £550 |
| Thomson 24WK23U | 24in | 2 | ● | ● | | |
| Thomson 28VK24U | 28in | 2 | ● | ● | | |
| Thomson 32VK24U | 32in | 2 | ● | ● | | |
| Toshiba 28W93B | 28in | 2 | ● | ● | | |

## REAR-PROJECTION SYSTEMS

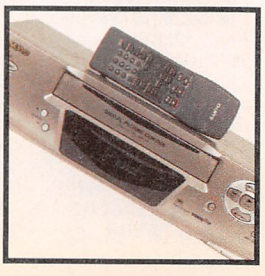
| Model | Screen size | Aspect ratio | Scart | S-video | Front AV inputs | Audio outputs | Guide price |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Panasonic TX-47PT1 | 47in | 4:3 | 3 | ● | ● | ● | £3,400 |
| Philips 46P912A | 46in | 4:3 | 2 | ● | | ● | £2,700 |
| Sony KL-37W2 | 37in | 16:9 | 3 | ● | ● | ● | |
| Sony KL-50W2 | 50in | 16:9 | 3 | ● | ● | ● | £3,300 |
| Sony KP-41S4U | 41in | 4:3 | 3 | ● | ● | ● | £1,800 |
| Sony KP-46S4 | 46in | 4:3 | 3 | ● | ● | ● | £2,250 |
| Sony KP-53S4 | 53in | 4:3 | 3 | ● | ● | ● | £2,650 |
| Thomson 46RH40U | 46in | 4:3 | 3 | ● | ● | ● | |
| Thomson 52RH40U | 52in | 4:3 | 3 | ● | ● | ● | |
| Toshiba 40PW8DB | 40in | 16:9 | 3 | ● | ● | ● | £3000 |
| Toshiba 48PJ6DB | 48in | 4:3 | 3 | ● | ● | ● | £3000 |
| Toshiba 55PJ6DB | 55in | 4:3 | 3 | ● | ● | ● | £3500 |
| Toshiba 56PW8 | 56in | 16:9 | 3 | ● | ● | ● | £4,000 |

## TWIN-SPEED MONO VCRs

| Model | Timer | Index search | PDC | Front AV inputs | Scart | Guide price | NTSC playback | Satellite control | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aiwa HV-GX900 | 31/8 | ● | | | 1 | £120 | ● | | |
| Aiwa HV-GX950 | 31/8 | ● | | | 2 | | ● | | |
| Akai VS-G280 | 365/8 | ● | | | 1 | £160 | ● | | Auto LP timer |
| Akai VS-G295 | 365/8 | ● | ● | | 1 | £140 | ● | | Auto LP timer |
| Akai VS-G297 | 365/8 | ● | ● | | 2 | | ● | | Auto LP timer |
| Bush VCR807 | 31/8 | ● | | | 1 | £80 | ● | | |
| Bush VCR808 | 31/8 | ● | | | 2 | £90 | | | |
| Bush VCR817VP | 31/8 | ● | | | 1 | £100 | ● | | |
| Bush VCR818VP | 365/8 | ● | | | 2 | £120 | | | |
| Daewoo K281P | 31/8 | ● | | | 2 | | ● | | |
| Daewoo K283P | 31/8 | ● | ● | | 2 | | ● | | |
| Daewoo K285P | 31/8 | ● | ● | | 2 | | ● | | |
| Daewoo Q256P | 31/8 | ● | ● | | 1 | £110 | ● | | |
| Ferguson FV401LV | 365/4 | ● | ● | | 2 | £120 | ● | | |
| Grundig GV 8000 | 31/6 | ● | ● | | 2 | | ● | | |
| Hitachi C1420VT | 31/6 | ● | ● | | 1 | | | | |
| Hitachi VT-M610 | 31/6 | ● | ● | | 2 | £160 | | | |
| Hitachi VT-M631 | 31/6 | ● | ● | | 2 | £170 | | | |
| Hitachi VT-MX705 | 31/6 | ● | ● | | 2 | £120 | | | |
| Hitachi VT-MX730 | 31/8 | ● | ● | ● | 2 | | | | |
| JVC HR-J260EK | 365/8 | ● | ● | | 2 | | ● | | 16:9 rec & playback |
| JVC HR-J265EK | 365/8 | ● | ● | | 2 | £150 | ● | | 16:9 rec & playback |
| JVC HR-J465EK | 365/8 | ● | ● | | 2 | £180 | ● | | 16:9 rec & playback |
| Mitsubishi HS-821VB | 31/8 | ● | ● | | 2 | £180 | | | |
| Mitsubishi HS-841VB | 31/8 | ● | ● | | 2 | £190 | | | |
| Panasonic NV-HD440 | 31/8 | ● | ● | ● | 2 | £200 | | | |
| Panasonic NV-SD240 | 31/8 | ● | ● | | 2 | £150 | | | |
| Philips VR200 | 31/6 | ● | ● | | 2 | £150 | | | |
| Philips VR285 | 31/6 | ● | ● | | 2 | £200 | | | |
| Samsung SV-120W | 31/6 | ● | | | | £120 | | | AC/DC operation |
| Samsung SV-220B | 31/6 | ● | | | 1 | £120 | ● | | Auto LP timer |
| Samsung SV-221B | 31/6 | ● | | | 1 | £130 | ● | | Auto LP timer |
| Samsung SV-223B | 31/6 | ● | ● | | 1 | £130 | ● | | Auto LP timer |
| Samsung SV-224GR | 31/6 | ● | | | 1 | £130 | ● | | Auto LP timer |
| Sanyo VHR-279 | 365/6 | ● | | | 1 | £120 | ● | | |
| Sanyo VHR-289 | 365/6 | ● | ● | | 2 | £130 | ● | | Tape Library |
| Sharp VC-M301 | 365/8 | ● | | | 1 | £130 | | | |
| Sharp VC-M311 | 365/8 | ● | | | 1 | £160 | | | |
| Sharp VC-M321 | 365/8 | ● | ● | | 2 | £130 | ● | | |
| Sharp VC-M331HM | 365/8 | ● | ● | | 2 | | | | |
| Sony SLV-SE20UX | 31/8 | ● | ● | | 1 | £170 | ● | | |
| Sony SLV-SE30UX | 31/8 | ● | ● | ● | 2 | £180 | ● | | |
| Sony SLV-SE45UX | 31/8 | ● | ● | ● | 2 | £230 | ● | | |
| Tatung TVR 934 | 31/8 | ● | | | 1 | | | | |
| Tatung TVR 935V | 31/8 | ● | ● | | 1 | | ● | | |
| Toshiba V-229 | 31/6 | ● | ● | | 2 | £150 | ● | | ONdigital box control |

### KEY TO VCRs

**Timer:** The number of programmes (events) the VCR can be programmed to record and how far ahead it can be set (in days) All VCRs listed have the VideoPlus recording system.
**Index Search:** A recorded index code is used to locate a specific point on the tape.
**PDC (Programme Delivery Control):** Automatically adjusts the timer if programmes are delayed. Used by BBC, Channel 4, Channel 5 and some ITV companies.
**Audio System:** Nicam means it is able to decode digital stereo TV sound.
**Front AV Inputs:** Phono and/or S-Video and audio sockets mounted on the front panel for easy camcorder connection. **Insert Edit:** Allows you to drop new recordings over old without picture break-up at entry and exit points.
**Audio dub:** Lets you record a new soundtrack while retaining the original picture.
**Scart/S-video:** We've listed these to help you hook up two recorders for copy/edit work.
**Onscreen Graphics:** Displays VCR and timer commands onscreen.



## TWIN-SPEED NICAM VCRs

| Format | Model | Timer | Index search | PDC | Front AV inputs | Insert edit | Audio dub | Scart | Guide price | NTSC playback | Satellite control | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| VHS | Aiwa HV-FX5100 | 31/8 | ● | ● | | | | 2 | £140 | ● | | |
| VHS | Aiwa HV-FX7500 | 31/6 | ● | ● | ● | | ● | 2 | £200 | ● | | |
| VHS | Aiwa HV-FX8500 | 31/6 | ● | ● | ● | | ● | 2 | | ● | | |
| VHS | Aiwa HV-MX100 | 31/6 | ● | | ● | | | 1 | | ● | | Multi-standard recorder |
| VHS | Akai VS-G781 | 365/8 | ● | | | | | 2 | £230 | ● | | Auto LP timer |
| VHS | Akai VS-G796 | 365/8 | ● | ● | ● | | | 2 | £200 | ● | | Auto LP timer |
| VHS | Akai VS-G797 | 365/8 | ● | ● | ● | | | 2 | | ● | | Auto LP timer/NTSC rec |
| VHS | Bush VCR870NVP | 31/8 | ● | | | | | 1 | £130 | ● | | |
| VHS | Bush VCR880NVP | 365/8 | ● | | | | | 2 | £150 | | | |
| VHS | Daewoo Q857P | 31/8 | ● | ● | ● | | | 2 | £150 | ● | | |
| VHS | Ferguson FV405HV | 365/8 | ● | ● | | | | 2 | £150 | ● | | |
| VHS | Ferguson FV407HV | 365/8 | ● | ● | ● | | | 2 | | ● | | |
| VHS | Goodmans VN9500 | 31/8 | ● | ● | ● | | | 2 | £130 | | | |
| VHS | Grundig GV-8400 | 31/6 | ● | ● | | | | 2 | £150 | ● | | |
| VHS | Hitachi VT-FX750 | 365/8 | ● | ● | | | | 2 | £260 | | | |
| VHS | Hitachi VT-FX760 | 365/8 | ● | ● | ● | | | 2 | £240 | | | |
| VHS | Hitachi VT-FX770 | 365/8 | ● | ● | ● | | | 2 | £340 | ● | | Movietext |
| VHS | Hitachi VT-FX850 | 365/8 | ● | ● | | | | 2 | £180 | | | |
| VHS | Hitachi VT-FX860 | 365/8 | ● | ● | ● | | | 2 | £230 | | | Movietext |
| VHS | Hitachi VT-FX880 | 365/8 | ● | ● | ● | | | 2 | £300 | ● | | Movietext/ Commercial Advance |
| VHS | JVC HR-DD855EK | 365/8 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | 2 | £290 | ● | | 16:9 rec & playback |
| VHS | JVC HR-DD865EK | 365/8 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | 2 | | ● | | 16:9 rec & playback |
| VHS | JVC HR-J660EK | 365/8 | ● | ● | ● | | | 2 | | ● | | 16:9 rec & playback |
| VHS | JVC HR-J665EK | 365/8 | ● | ● | ● | | | 2 | £230 | ● | | 16:9 rec & playback |
| S-VHS | JVC HR-S6600 | 365/8 | ● | ● | | | | 2 | £300 | ● | | 16:9 rec & playback |
| S-VHS | JVC HR-S7500 | 365/8 | ● | ● | ● | | | 2 | £300 | ● | | 16:9 rec & playback |
| S-VHS | JVC HR-S7600EK | 365/8 | ● | ● | ● | | | 2 | | ● | | 16:9 rec & playback |
| S-VHS | JVC HR-S8600EK | 365/8 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | 2 | | ● | | 16:9 rec & playback |
| S-VHS | JVC HR-S9500 | 365/8 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | 2 | £500 | ● | | 16:9 rec & playback |
| S-VHS | JVC HR-S9600EK | 365/8 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | 2 | | ● | | 16:9 rec & playback |
| VHS | Mitsubishi HS-851VB | 31/8 | ● | ● | | | | 2 | £280 | | | |
| VHS | Mitsubishi HS-861VB | 31/8 | ● | ● | | ● | ● | 2 | £330 | | | |
| VHS | Mitsubishi HS-871VB | 31/8 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | 2 | £380 | | | |
| VHS | Panasonic NV-HD640 | 365/8 | ● | ● | | | | 2 | £240 | ● | | |
| VHS | Panasonic NV-HD645 | 31/8 | ● | ● | ● | | ● | 2 | £280 | ● | | |
| VHS | Panasonic NV-HD675 | 31/8 | ● | ● | ● | | ● | 2 | £320 | ● | ● | Tape Library |
| VHS | Panasonic NV-HD685 | 31/8 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | 2 | £380 | ● | ● | Tape Library |
| S-VHS | Panasonic NV-HS850 | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | 2 | | ● | ● | |
| S-VHS | Panasonic NV-HS950 | 31/8 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | 2 | £800 | ● | | |
| DVC | Panny NV-DV10000 | 31/8 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | 2 | £2,300 | | | |
| S-VHS | Philips VR1000 | | | | | | | | £350 | | | |
| VHS | Philips VR600 | 31/6 | ● | | | | | 2 | £200 | ● | | |
| VHS | Philips VR700 | | | | | | | | £300 | | | |
| VHS | Philips VR860 | 365/8 | ● | ● | ● | | ● | 2 | £350 | ● | | Tape Manager |
| VHS | Philips VR900 | | | | | | | | £330 | | | |
| VHS | Samsung SV-4000W | 31/6 | ● | | ● | | ● | 1 | £1,000 | ● | | Multi-standard recorder |
| VHS | Samsung SV-620B | 31/6 | ● | | | | | 2 | £140 | ● | | Child door lock |
| VHS | Samsung SV-623B | 31/6 | ● | | | | | 2 | £170 | ● | | Child door lock |
| VHS | Samsung SV-627B | 31/6 | ● | ● | | | | 2 | £200 | ● | | |
| VHS | Sanyo VHR778 | 365/6 | ● | ● | | | | 2 | £200 | | | |
| VHS | Sanyo VHR779 | 365/6 | | | | | | 2 | £170 | | | Auto LP timer/Tape Library |
| VHS | Sanyo VHR798 | 365/6 | ● | ● | ● | | ● | 2 | £260 | | | |
| VHS | Sanyo VHR899 | 365/6 | ● | ● | ● | | | 2 | £230 | ● | | Auto LP timer/Tape Library |
| VHS | Sharp VC-M331HM | 365/8 | ● | ● | | | | 2 | | ● | ● | |
| VHS | Sharp VC-MH711HM | 365/8 | ● | | | | | 2 | £160 | | | |
| VHS | Sharp VC-MH721HM | 365/8 | ● | ● | ● | | | 2 | £220 | | | |
| VHS | Sharp VC-MH731HM | 365/8 | ● | ● | ● | | ● | 2 | | ● | ● | 16:9 mode |
| VHS | Sharp VC-MH73HM | 365/8 | ● | ● | ● | | | 2 | £250 | ● | ● | |
| VHS | Sony SLV-E1000UX | 31/8 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | 2 | £575 | ● | | |
| VHS | Sony SLV-E850UX | 31/8 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | 2 | £300 | ● | | |
| VHS | Sony SLV-F900UX | 31/8 | ● | ● | ● | | | 2 | £450 | ● | | SmartFile tape memory |
| VHS | Sony SLV-F990UX | 31/8 | ● | ● | ● | | ● | 2 | £400 | ● | ● | SmartFile tape memory |
| VHS | Sony SLV-SE70UX | 31/8 | ● | ● | ● | | | 2 | £240 | ● | | |
| VHS | Sony SLV-SE80UX | 31/8 | ● | ● | ● | | | 2 | £350 | ● | | Smart Dial timer |
| VHS | Sony SLV-SE930UX | 31/8 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | 2 | | ● | | |
| VHS/Hi8 | Sony SLV-T2000UX | 31/8 | ● | ● | ● | | ● | 2 | £800 | | | |
| VHS | Tatung TVR 754N | 31/8 | ● | ● | | | | 1 | | ● | | |
| VHS | Thomson VPH 6850 | 365/8 | ● | ● | ● | | | | | ● | ● | NTSC rec/16:9 mode/auto LP timer |
| VHS | Thomson VPH 6950 | 365/8 | ● | ● | ● | | | | | ● | | Auto LP timer |
| VHS | Toshiba V709 | 31/6 | ● | ● | | | | 2 | £200 | ● | | |
| VHS | Toshiba V729 | 31/6 | ● | ● | | | | 2 | £250 | ● | | ONdigital box control |
| VHS | Toshiba V829 | 31/6 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | 2 | £280 | ● | | ONdigital box control |
| VHS | Toshiba V859 | 31/6 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | 2 | £330 | ● | | ONdigital box control |

# TESTED products

**This section of the *Buyers' Guide* lists the products that we've tested over the last few years which we think are worthy of your consideration. As well as taking guidance from our summarised comments and ratings you should think about ordering a test report from our archives (see *Reprints*, which also lists all the products tested over the past two years, plus many more).**

## WIDESCREEN SURROUND SOUND TELEVISIONS

| System | Model | Screen size | Scart | Front AV inputs | Audio outputs | Ext. Speak. term | RGB | 100Hz | S-video | Comments | Test date | Guide price | Rating (1-10) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Pal/N** | **Akai CT-W3257** | **32in** | **2** | ● | | ● | ● | | ● | **Excellent value. BB** | **Mar 98** | **£1,250** | **9** |
| Pal/N | Grundig Arganto | 32in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | ● | | ● | Great pic but average connectivity | Mar 00 | £1,200 | 8 |
| **Pal/N** | **Hitachi C24W511TN** | **24in** | **2** | ● | ● | ● | ● | | ● | **Taste of luxury for cramped l-rooms. BB** | **Dec 99** | **£550** | **9** |
| Pal/N | Hitachi C32WD2TN | 32in | 2 | ● | ● | | ● | | ● | Two-speaker surround sound model | Mar 98 | £1,300 | 8 |
| **Multi** | **Mitsubishi CT-28BW2BD** | **28in** | **2** | ● | | ● | | | ● | **No real weaknesses. BB** | **Jun 97** | **£950** | **9** |
| **Pal/N** | **Loewe Planus 4681Z** | **32in** | **2** | ● | ● | | ● | ● | ● | **Picture quality/design ooze class. BB** | **Oct 98** | **£1,650** | **9** |
| **Pal/N** | **Panasonic TX-32D2DP** | **32in** | **3** | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | **Excellent 100Hz set. BB** | **May 97** | **£1,700** | **9** |
| **Pal/N** | **Panasonic TX-W36D3DP** | **36in** | **3** | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | **Biggest CRT widescreen on market. BB** | **Mar 98** | **£2,800** | **9** |
| **Pal/N** | **Panasonic TX-47PT1** | **47in** | **3** | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | **Stunning picture quality. BB** | **Apr 99** | **£3,400** | **9** |
| **Pal/N** | **Philips 32PW9763/25** | **32in** | **3** | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | **Wireless surrounds. BB** | **Dec 98** | **£1,900** | **9** |
| Pal/N | Philips 28PW9615/05 | 28in | 4 | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | Wireless(ish) DD set. Strong pic/sound | Dec 98 | £1,900 | 9 |
| **Pal/N** | **Samsung WS32W6** | **32in** | **3** | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | **Breathtaking in every dept. BB** | **Nov 99** | **£1,100** | **9** |
| **Multi** | **Sony KV-32FD1** | **32in** | **3** | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | **First true flatscreen. BB** | **Feb 98** | **£2,800** | **9** |
| **Multi** | **Sony KV-32DS60** | **32in** | **3** | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | **Superb set with built-in dig tuner. BB** | **Sep 99** | **£2,000** | **9** |
| **Multi** | **Sony KV-32FX20** | **32in** | **2** | ● | ● | ● | ● | | ● | **Premium flatscreen performer. BB** | **Dec 99** | **£1,200** | **9** |
| **Multi** | **Toshiba 32MW7DB** | **32in** | **3** | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | **Flagship Dolby Digital TV. BB** | **Feb 98** | **£1,600** | **9** |
| **Multi** | **Toshiba 2987DB** | **29in** | **3** | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | | **Good all-rounder for the price. BB** | **Nov 98** | **£850** | **9** |
| **Multi** | **Toshiba 32W8DB** | **32in** | **3** | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | **Hugely impressive visuals. BB** | **Jul 99** | **£1,200** | **9** |
| **Pal/N** | **Toshiba 32WD98B** | **32in** | **3** | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | **Home cinema heaven. BB DD TV** | **Dec 99** | **£1,300** | **10** |
| **Pal/N** | **Toshiba 32ZD98B** | **32in** | **3** | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | **Superb images, DD sound. BB** | **Jan 00** | **£1,700** | **9** |

## WIDESCREEN NICAM TELEVISIONS

| System | Model | Screen size | Scart | Front A/V inputs | Audio outputs | Ext. Speak. terminals | RGB | 100Hz | S-vid | Comments | Test date | Guide price | Rating (1-10) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Pal/N** | **Bush 6690D** | **28in** | **2** | | ● | ● | ● | | | **Remarkable price for w/s IDTV. BB** | **Mar 00** | **£500** | **9** |
| **Pal/N** | **Goodmans W288NS** | **28in** | **2** | ● | | | ● | | ● | **Great picture at an amazing price. BB** | **Jul 99** | **£400** | **9** |
| Multi | Loewe Credo 7570 ZP | 28in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | Well featured, good looker | Aug 97 | £2,000 | 8 |
| **Pal/N** | **LG WF-32A14T** | **32in** | **2** | ● | ● | | ● | | ● | **Good audio and excellent value. BB** | **May 98** | **£1,000** | **9** |
| **Pal/N** | **Panny TX-32PF10** | **32in** | **3** | ● | ● | | ● | | ● | **Flat-screen stunner. Near-perfect set. BB** | **Sep 99** | **£1,400** | **9** |
| **Pal/N** | **Philips 28PW6322** | **28in** | **2** | ● | ● | | ● | | ● | **Great price, great picture. BB** | **Mar 98** | **£700** | **9** |
| **PaL/N** | **Philips 32PW6322** | **32in** | **2** | ● | ● | | ● | | ● | **Good picture quality excellent value. BB** | **May 98** | **£1,000** | **9** |
| **PaL/N** | **Schneider 2816** | **28in** | **2** | | | | ● | | | **Marvellous picture quality. BB** | **Apr 99** | **£500** | **9** |
| **PaL/N** | **Sony KV-28FX60** | **28in** | **3** | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | **Excellent picture, good price. BB** | **Apr 99** | **£1,100** | **9** |
| **PaL/N** | **Tatung T28440** | **28in** | **2** | | | | ● | | ● | **Excellent entry-level set. BB** | **Jul 99** | **£550** | **9** |

## 4:3 SURROUND SOUND TELEVISIONS

| System | Model | Screen size | Scart | Front A/V inputs | Audio outputs | Ext. Speak. terminals | RGB | 100Hz | S-video | Comments | Test date | Guide price | Rating (1-10) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pal/N | Ferguson M8473NJD | 33in | 2 | | | ● | ● | | ● | Great picture, good price, bad manual | Feb 98 | £1,000 | 8 |
| **Pal/N** | **Goodmans 285DPL** | **28in** | **2** | | | ● | ● | | ● | **Great price and a decent performance. BB** | **Dec 97** | **£600** | **9** |
| Pal/N | Grundig ST63 775DPL | 25in | 2 | ● | | ● | ● | | ● | Good but unspectacular | Sep 98 | £600 | 7 |
| Pal/N | Hitachi 2886TN | 28in | 2 | ● | ● | | ● | | ● | Indifferent AV performance | Jan 98 | £700 | 7 |
| Pal/N | JVC AV-25SX2EK | 25in | 2 | ● | ● | | ● | | ● | Excellent picture and pseudo surround | Nov 97 | £700 | 8 |
| Multi | JVC AV-21SX1EK | 21in | 2 | | ● | | ● | | ● | 3D-Phonic sound and excellent picture | Feb 97 | £550 | 8 |
| Multi | LG CF-25A64DF | 25in | 2 | ● | ● | | ● | | ● | Reasonable entry level model | Sep 98 | £580 | 7 |
| Pal | Matsui 28 DPL | 28in | 2 | ● | | ● | | | ● | Excellent value for money | Jun 98 | £500 | 8 |
| Multi | Mitsubishi CT-21AV1BD | 21in | 2 | | | ● | ● | | | Above average picture and good sound | Feb 97 | £550 | 7 |
| **Multi** | **Mitsubishi CT-29BV1** | **29in** | **2** | ● | | ● | ● | | ● | **Superb sound and price. BB** | **Apr 97** | **£900** | **9** |
| **Pal/N** | **PanasonicTX-25AD2DP** | **25in** | **2** | ● | ● | ● | ● | | ● | **Excellent sound and features. BB** | **Nov 97** | **£700** | **9** |
| **Pal/N** | **PanasonicTX-29AD70** | **29in** | **2** | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | **Excellent big-screen surround sound. BB** | **April 98** | **£1,100** | **9** |
| **Multi** | **Panasonic TX-21AD2DP** | **21in** | **2** | ● | ● | | ● | | ● | **Excellent surround set. BB** | **Feb 97** | **£500** | **9** |
| **Multi** | **Philips 29PT9113C** | **29in** | **3** | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | **100Hz-scanning TV with PIP. BB** | **Dec 97** | **£950** | **9** |
| Multi | Samsung CW-30A90SD | 30in | 3 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | Restores extra inch of picture from overscanning | Aug 98 | £900 | 8 |
| Pal/N | Sanyo 25XP1 | 25in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | ● | | ● | Sanyo's debut Pro-Logic set | Apr 97 | £650 | 7 |
| **Pal** | **Sharp 59CS-D8H** | **25in** | **2** | ● | ● | ● | | | ● | **Superb sound. BB** | **Sep 97** | **£700** | **9** |
| **Pal/N** | **Sony KV-25F3** | **25in** | **2** | ● | ● | ● | ● | | ● | **Fully featured. BB** | **Nov 97** | **£700** | **9** |
| Pal/N | Sony KV-29F3U | 29in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | ● | | ● | Good all rounder | Sep 97 | £900 | 8 |
| **Pal/N** | **Toshiba 3787DB** | **37in** | **3** | ● | ● | ● | ● | | ● | **Great Dolby Digital TV. BB** | **Sep 98** | **£2,000** | **9** |
| **Pal/N** | **Toshiba 2557DB** | **25in** | **3** | ● | ● | ● | ● | | ● | **Good all round set. BB** | **Sep 98** | **£600** | **9** |
| Pal/N | Toshiba 2557 | 25in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | ● | | ● | Recommended surround sound TV | Aug 96 | £750 | 8 |
| Pal/N | Toshiba 2877DB | 28in | 3 | ● | ● | ● | ● | | ● | Decent picture, good features | Dec 97 | £850 | 8 |
| Pal/N | Toshiba 3377DB | 33in | 3 | ● | ● | ● | ● | | ● | Decent all rounder | Oct 97 | £1,500 | 8 |

## 4:3 NICAM TELEVISIONS 33in AND OVER

| System | Model | Screen size | Scart | Front A/V inputs | Audio outputs | Ext. Speak. terminals | RGB | 100Hz | S-vid | Comments | Test date | Guide price | Rating (1-10) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| PAL | Bush 3463NTX | 34in | 1 | | | | ● | | | Good value for a large screen | Jun 98 | £800 | 7 |
| **Pal/N** | **Grundig M95-410/0REF** | **37in** | **3** | ● | ● | | ● | ● | ● | **Impressive big-screen set. BB** | **Feb 98** | **£2,300** | **9** |
| **Pal/N** | **Thomson 37MG73J** | **37in** | **2** | ● | ● | ● | ● | | ● | **Marvellous picture at an great price. BB** | **Mar 98** | **£1,800** | **9** |

## 4:3 NICAM TELEVISIONS 28in-32in

| System | Model | Screen size | Scart/ S-video | Front A/V inputs | Audio outputs | Ext. Speak. terminals | RGB | S-video | 100Hz | Comments | Test date | Guide price | Rating (1-10) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pal | Akai CT2867 | 28in | 2 | ● | | | ● | ● | | Good value, fair performer | Jan 98 | £550 | 8 |
| **Multi** | **Akai 2851** | **28in** | **2** | ● | ● | | ● | ● | | **Extremely good value set. BB** | **Nov 98** | **£400** | **9** |
| Pal/N | Daewoo GB2898ST | 28in | 2 | ● | | | ● | ● | | Excellent picture, very good value | Feb 98 | £400 | 9 |
| Multi | Ferguson T68NB | 28in | 2 | | | | ● | ● | | Fair performer, stylish but poor connectivity. | May 97 | £600 | 7 |
| Pal/N | LG CF28A60D | 28in | 2 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | | User friendly, strong all round | April 98 | £680 | 8 |
| **Multi** | **Mitsubishi C28C7B** | **28in** | **2** | | ● | | ● | ● | | **No real weaknesses. BB** | **Jan 98** | **£570** | **9** |
| **Multi** | **Panasonic TX-28LD1** | **28in** | **2** | ● | | | ● | ● | | **Best Nicam TV of the Year. BB** | **Dec 96** | **£630** | **9** |
| Pal/N | Panasonic TX-28MD3 | 28in | 2 | ● | ● | | ● | ● | | Good picture, easy to use | Jan 98 | £580 | 8 |
| **Pal** | **Philips 29PT6773C** | **29in** | **2** | ● | ● | | ● | ● | | **Excellent vision and sound. BB** | **Feb 98** | **£1,100** | **9** |
| Pal | Sharp 66CS03H | 28in | 2 | ● | | | | | | Solid, but no front AV inputs | May 97 | £550 | 8 |
| Pal | Sharp 66DS-05H | 28in | 2 | ● | | | ● | ● | | Fair price and picture | April 98 | £580 | 7 |
| **Pal/N** | **Sony KV-29X1** | **29in** | **2** | ● | | | ● | ● | | **Great picture, easy to use. BB** | **Jan 98** | **£600** | **9** |
| Pal/N | Sony KV-29FX11 | 29in | 2 | ● | ● | | ● | ● | | Sony's first 4:3 flatscreen TV | Jul 98 | £800 | 8 |
| Pal/N | Sony KV-29K5U | 29in | 2 | ● | ● | | ● | ● | | Decent performance, but limited features | Aug 98 | £600 | 8 |

## 4:3 NICAM TELEVISIONS 25in

| System | Model | Screen size | Scart/ S-video | Front A/V inputs | Audio outputs | Ext. Speak. terminals | RGB | S-video | 100Hz | Comment | Test date | Guide price | Rating (1-10) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Pal/N** | **Goodmans 255NS** | **25in** | **2** | ● | | | ● | ● | | **Another Goodmans bargain. BB** | **Jan 98** | **£370** | **9** |
| Multi | Mitsubishi C25C7B | 25in | 2 | | ● | | ● | ● | | Audio lacks clout | Jan 98 | £500 | 8 |
| **Multi** | **Mitsubishi CT-25AV1B** | **25in** | **2** | ● | | | ● | ● | | **Excellent sound system/good value. BB** | **Jul 97** | **£470** | **9** |
| **Pal/N** | **Panasonic TX-25MD3** | **25in** | **2** | ● | | | ● | ● | | **Good pictures, plenty of features. BB** | **Jan 98** | **£480** | **9** |
| Pal/N | Panasonic TX-25MD4 | 25in | 2 | ● | | | ● | ● | | Easy to use, good picture, weak sound | Nov 98 | £450 | 8 |
| Pal/N | Sharp 59CS-03 | 25in | 2 | | | | ● | ● | | Uninspiring effort | Jan 98 | £480 | 7 |
| Pal/N | Sharp 59CS-05H | 25in | 2 | ● | ● | | ● | | | Features Sharp's SRS sound system | Apr 97 | £530 | 7 |
| Pal/N | Sony KV-25K5 | 25in | 2 | ● | ● | | ● | ● | | Decent picture, sound and features less so | Nov 98 | £470 | 8 |
| Pal/N | Thomson 25DT63H | 25in | 2 | ● | | | | ● | | Decent, if unspectacular, performer | Jul 97 | £450 | 7 |
| Pal/N | Toshiba 2563DB | 25in | 2 | ● | | | ● | ● | | Excellent picture performance | Jul 97 | £550 | 8 |

## 4:3 NICAM TELEVISIONS 20in-21in

| System | Model | Screen size | Scart | Front A/V Inputs | Audio outputs | Ext. Speak. terminals | RGB | S-video | 100Hz | Comments | Test date | Guide price | Rating (1-10) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Pal/N** | **Goodmans 206NS** | **20in** | **2** | ● | | | ● | ● | | **Excellent value, fair performer. BB** | **Feb 00** | **£150** | **9** |
| Pal | Grundig ST55-725 | 21in | 1 | ● | | | ● | ● | ● | Good value, fair performer | May 97 | £320 | 8 |
| Pal | Matsui 21V1N | 21in | 1 | ● | | | | | ● | Ugly duckling with a beautiful price | Nov 97 | £260 | 8 |
| **Pal/N** | **Panasonic TX-21MD3** | **21in** | **2** | ● | ● | | | | ● | **A tad pricey. but excellent all round. BB** | **Nov 97** | **£400** | **9** |
| **Pal/N** | **Panasonic TX-21MK1** | **21in** | **2** | ● | ● | | ● | ● | | **Lovingly crafted, dazzlingly featured TV. BB** | **Oct 99** | **£300** | **9** |
| Pal | Sharp 51CS-03H | 21in | 2 | | | | | | | Superb soundstage at a good price | May 97 | £350 | 8 |

## 14in PORTABLE TVs

| Model | Scart sockets | Front A/V inputs | Audio outputs | Headphone socket | RGB | Comments | Test date | Guide price | Rating (1-10) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Hitachi 1422T** | ● | 1 | | ● | ● | **Practical and easy to use. BB** | **Mar 99** | **£180** | **9** |
| **Panasonic TX-14C3TS** | ● | 1 | | ● | ● | **Highly competent portable. BB** | **Mar 99** | **£190** | **9** |
| **Panasonic TX-14S3T** | ● | 1 | | ● | | **All-round, top-notch performer. BB** | **Sep 99** | **£140** | **9** |
| **Samsung CI33732** | ● | 1 | ● | ● | ● | **Best Portable of the Year. BB** | **Jan 97** | **£170** | **10** |
| **Sony KV14T1U** | ● | 1 | ● | ● | ● | **With swivel stand. Also in white. BB** | **Jan 97** | **£250** | **9** |

### KEY TO TELEVISIONS

**System:** All UK TVs use the PAL system. Many also accept NTSC signals from American or Japanese software. If a TV is also compatible with the European Secam system, it is classed as multi-standard. If it has NTSC playback we use the Pal/N symbol. **Screen Size:** Quoted screen size. The actual size, measured diagonally from one corner to the opposite corner is usually around 1.5in less. **Scart/ S-video:** The total amount of audio and video inputs, listed by type. **Front AV Inputs:** Usually phono audio and video, sometimes S-Video, inputs, for easy camcorder or video game connection. **Audio Outputs:** For connecting the TV to a hi-fi or AV system. **External Speaker Terminals:** For direct connection of additional speakers. **RGB:** Some TVs will accept RGB signals, usually via a Scart socket, to display computer-generated images. **Test Date:** If we've reviewed a TV you're interested in, you can order a copy from our Test Reprints service. **100Hz** scanning: Picture is refreshed at twice the normal rate to reduce flicker.

**Screen sizes:** Manufacturers equivalent in cm are usually 51cm for 21in, 59cm for 25in, 68cm for 28, 70cm for 29in and 78cm for 33in. And yes, we know these don't all add up mathematically. **Rating:** Based on full tests.

## REAR-PROJECTION SYSTEMS

| System | Model | Screen size | Aspect ratio | Scart | Front A/V inputs | Audio outputs | Ext. Speak. terminals | RGB | S-video | Comments | Test date | Guide price | Rating (1-10) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Multi** | **Sony KP-41S4U** | **41in** | **4:3** | **3** | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | **High-quality set. BB** | **Sep 98** | **£1,800** | **9** |
| **Multi** | **Sony KP-41S3U** | **41in** | **4:3** | **3** | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | **Best Superscreen TV of the year. BB** | **Nov 96** | **£2,300** | **10** |
| **Multi** | **Thomson RP52** | **52in** | **4:3** | **2** | | ● | ● | ● | ● | **Big-screen giant. BB** | **Aug 96** | **£3,500** | **9** |
| **Multi** | **Toshiba 48PJ6DB** | **48in** | **4:3** | **3** | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | **Stunning. BB** | **Aug 97** | **£3,000** | **10** |
| **Multi** | **Toshiba 55PJ6DB** | **55in** | **4:3** | **3** | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | **Flagship rear-projection set. BB** | **Apr 97** | **£3,500** | **9** |
| **Multi** | **Toshiba 56PW8** | **56in** | **16:9** | **3** | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | **Epic AV performer. BB** | **May 99** | **£4,000** | **9** |
| **Multi** | **Toshiba 43PJ93** | **43in** | **4:3** | **3** | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | **Superb performer. BB** | **Nov 99** | **£1,800** | **9** |
| **Multi** | **Toshiba 50PJ98B** | **50in** | **4:3** | **3** | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | **Breathtaking visuals. BB** | **Feb 00** | **£2,500** | **9** |

# TESTED products

## KEY TO REAR-PROJECTION TELEVISIONS

**System:** TV/video colour system. **Screen Size:** Quoted screen size. **Aspect Ratio:** 4:3 = standard, 16:9 = widescreen. **Scart/S-video:** These are listed to help with hook-up. **Front AV Inputs:** Usually phono audio and video, and sometimes S-video, inputs, typically for easy camcorder or video game connection. **Audio Outputs:** For connecting the TV to a hi-fi or AV system. **External Speaker Terminals:** Provision for outboard loudspeakers. **RGB:** Provision of direct red, green and blue drives to video amplifiers. **100Hz** scanning: Picture is refreshed at twice the normal rate to reduce flicker. **Rating:** Ratings are based on full tests of equipment.

## FRONT-PROJECTION SYSTEMS

| Type | Model | Aspect ratio | BNC/Scart/ S-video | Audio outputs | Var. focus | Keystone adjust. | Rear Dimensions | Wght (kg) | Comments | Test date | Guide price | Rating (1-10) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **CRT** | **Barco 508** | **3.58/4:43** | **3/0/1** | ● | ● | ● | **655x278x630** | **32** | **Awesome picture. BB** | **Dec 98** | **£4,112** | **9** |
| **CRT** | **Philips ProScreen 4600** | **4:3** | **0/0/1** | ● | ● | ● | **330x165x330** | **8** | **Easy to use and carry. BB** | **Mar 98** | **£5,860** | **9** |
| **CRT** | **RCF LS4001WS** | **1.85:1/16:9** | **3/0/1** | | ● | ● | **565x250x715** | **35** | **Widescreen upgrade. BB** | **May 96** | **£4,995** | **9** |
| **LCD** | **Sanyo PLC-400** | **4:3** | **1/0/1** | ● | ● | ● | **430x185x385** | **10.5** | **Great projector. BB** | **Sep 96** | **£2,920** | **9** |
| CRT | Seleco SVP350 | 4:3 | 1/1/1 | ● | ● | | 620x290x700 | 2.5 | Tiny unit, great performance | Feb 00 | £3,700 | 8 |
| **LCD** | **Sharp XV-C1E** | **4:3** | **5/0/1** | | | ● | **210x130x277** | **3.4** | **Great value. BB** | **Aug 97** | **£1,000** | **10** |
| **LCD** | **Sharp XV-ZW60E** | **4:3/16:9** | **5/0/2** | ● | | | **359x195x528** | **14.8** | **Great value/playback. BB** | **Jan 00** | **£3,500** | **9** |
| **LCD** | **Sharp XV-380H** | **4:3/21:9** | **0/0/1** | ● | ● | ● | **500x447x201** | **12.1** | **Top-notch projector. BB** | **Mar 97** | **£3,871** | **9** |
| **LCD** | **Sony VPL-900E** | **4:3/16:9** | **0/0/1** | ● | ● | | **333x120x291** | **5.9** | **Outstanding picture. BB** | **Jun 99** | **£4,500** | **9** |

## KEY TO FRONT-PROJECTION SYSTEMS

**Type:** TV/Video colour system. **Aspect Ratio:** 4:3 = standard, 16:9 = widescreen. **Total Inputs/Audio Outputs:** These are listed to help with hook-up. **External Speaker Terminals:** Provision for out-board loudspeakers. **User Convergence Adjustments (UCA):** Provision of user-controls for tube convergence. **Variable Focus:** User focus adjustment. **Keystone Adjustment:** Provision for vertical picture shift. **Rear Projection:** Reverse left/right facility for projection behind screen. If the Test Reprints page is missing from this issue please telephone 020 7331 1000 for guidance. **Rating:** Ratings are based on full tests of equipment.

## TVCR COMBIS

| Model | Text | Twin tuner | Video Plus | PDC | Scart sockets | Front A/V socket | Comments | Test date | Guide price | Rating (1-10) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aiwa VX-T1480K | ● | | ● | ● | | ● | Well featured, a fair performer | Nov 97 | £400 | 8 |
| Bush BTV140T | ● | | | | 1 | | Fair value teletext model, indifferent performance | Jul 97 | £350 | 6 |
| Daewoo DVT-1482P | | | ● | | 1 | ● | Excellent value, good picture | Mar 98 | £290 | 8 |
| Daewoo DVT-2082P | | | ● | | 1 | ● | Strong on picture, indifferent sound | April 98 | £380 | 8 |
| Hitachi C1420VT | ● | | ● | ● | 1 | | Good picture, few weaknesses | Mar 98 | £360 | 8 |
| **LG KI-14V38** | | | | | **1** | | **Excellent value, great AV performance. BB** | **Jul 97** | **£330** | **9** |
| **Philips 14PV274** | ● | ● | ● | ● | **1** | ● | **Twin-tuner version of the 14PV163. BB** | **Sep 97** | **£430** | **9** |
| **Philips 14PV284** | ● | ● | ● | ● | **1** | ● | **Excellent picture and features. BB** | **Dec 98** | **£400** | **9** |
| **Sony KV-14V5** | ● | | ● | | **1** | ● | **Superb picture, good features. BB** | **Mar 98** | **£380** | **9** |
| **Sony KV-14V6** | ● | ● | ● | ● | **1** | ● | **Strong on sound, indifferent picture. BB** | **Dec 98** | **£400** | **9** |

## NICAM VCRs

| Format | Model | Timer | Index search | PDC | Front AV inputs | Insert edit | Audio dub | Scart | S-video | Comments | Test date | Guide price | Rating (1-10) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **VHS** | **Akai VS-G2DPL** | **365/8** | ● | ● | ● | | | **2** | | **Akai's second Pro-Logic VCR. BB** | **Jun 97** | **£450** | **9** |
| **VHS** | **Akai VS-G875** | **365/8** | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | **2** | | **Good price and edit features. BB** | **Jul 98** | **£350** | **9** |
| **VHS** | **Akai VS-G878** | **365/8** | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | **2** | | **Fantastic price and feature line up. BB** | **April 98** | **£450** | **9** |
| **VHS** | **Aiwa HV-FX5100** | **31/8** | ● | ● | | | | **2** | | **Competent performer at a superb price. BB** | **Feb 00** | **£140** | **9** |
| **VHS** | **Bush VCR860NVP** | **31/8** | ● | | | | ● | **1** | | **Great value, includes audio inputs/outputs. BB** | **May 98** | **£240** | **9** |
| **VHS** | **Ferguson FV305 HV** | **N/A** | | ● | ● | | | **2** | | **Good picture and audio. BB** | **Dec 98** | **£200** | **9** |
| **VHS** | **Goodmans VN8000** | **31/6** | ● | ● | | | | **2** | | **Superb value. BB** | **Oct 97** | **£230** | **9** |
| **VHS** | **Goodmans VN9500** | **31/8** | ● | ● | ● | | | **2** | | **Great performer at amazing price. BB** | **Sept 99** | **£150** | **9** |
| **VHS** | **Hitachi VT-FX770** | **N/A** | ● | ● | ● | | | **2** | | **Effective tape navigation system. BB** | **Aug 98** | **£340** | **9** |
| VHS | Hitachi VT-FX860 | N/A | ● | ● | ● | | | 2 | | Competent & affordable Nicam deck | Feb 00 | £210 | 8 |
| **VHS** | **Hitachi VT-FX880** | **N/A** | ● | ● | ● | | | **2** | | **First VCR to skip past ads. BB** | **Aug 99** | **£320** | **9** |
| **S-VHS** | **JVC HR-S7500** | **N/A** | ● | ● | ● | | | **2** | ● | **First affordable S-VHS deck. BB** | **Oct 98** | **£350** | **9** |
| **VHS** | **JVC HR-J665EK** | **N/A** | ● | ● | ● | | | **2** | | **Good value, excellent AV quality. BB** | **Jul 99** | **£230** | **9** |
| **S-VHS** | **JVC HR-S6600** | **N/A** | ● | ● | | | | **2** | | **S-VHS for price of VHS. Excellent package. BB** | **Oct 99** | **£300** | **9** |
| **S-VHS/DV** | **JVC HR-DVS1** | **N/A** | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | **2** | ● | **Revolutionary S-VHS/DV deck. Outstanding. BB** | **Nov 99** | **£1,300** | **9** |
| **D-VHS** | **JVC HM-DR10000** | **365/8** | | ● | ● | ● | | **2** | ● | **First-ever D-VHS/S-VHS deck. Superb quality. BB** | **Mar 00** | **£1,300** | **10** |
| **VHS** | **Panasonic NV-HD620** | **31/8** | ● | ● | | | | **2** | | **Excellent picture and sound quality. BB** | **Jun 97** | **£380** | **9** |
| **VHS** | **Panasonic NV-HD625** | **31/8** | ● | ● | ● | | | **2** | | **Excellent mid-range Nicam. BB** | **Aug 97** | **£400** | **9** |
| **VHS** | **Panasonic NV-HD680** | **31/8** | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | **2** | | **Deck with tape library system. BB** | **Dec 98** | **£450** | **9** |
| **DVC** | **Panny NV-DV10000** | **31/8** | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | **2** | ● | **High-end DV mastering deck. BB** | **Mar 99** | **£2,300** | **9** |
| **VHS** | **Panasonic NV-HD640** | **365/8** | ● | ● | | | | **2** | | **Great features & good AV quality. BB** | **Jul 99** | **£270** | **9** |
| **VHS** | **Panasonic NV-HD675** | **31/8** | ● | ● | ● | | ● | **2** | | **Magnificent deck with dazzling audio. BB** | **Oct 99** | **£320** | **9** |
| **VHS** | **Panasonic NV-HD685** | **31/8** | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | **2** | | **Top-notch, flexible VCR. BB** | **Nov 99** | **£330** | **9** |
| **S-VHS** | **Panasonic NV-HD850** | **31/8** | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | **2** | ● | **Excellent S-VHS deck at decent price. BB** | **Dec 99** | **£400** | **9** |
| **VHS** | **Philips VR665** | **365/8** | ● | ● | | | | **2** | | **Competent mid-range Nicam deck. BB** | **Feb 97** | **£350** | **9** |
| **VHS** | **Philips VR860** | **365/8** | ● | ● | ● | | ● | **2** | | **Top-notch performer, unusual features. BB** | **Oct 99** | **£350** | **9** |
| **S-VHS** | **Philips VR969** | **31/6** | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | **2** | ● | **Good edit facilities, weak LP picture. BB** | **Mar 98** | **£800** | **9** |
| **VHS** | **Samsung SV-4000W** | **31/6** | ● | | ● | | ● | **1** | | **Worldwide standards converting VCR. BB** | **Sep 98** | **£1,000** | **9** |
| VHS | Samsung SV-605B | 31/6 | ● | ● | | | ● | 2 | | Fair price, fair performer | Feb 98 | £280 | 8 |
| VHS | Samsung SV-627B | N/A | ● | ● | ● | | ● | 2 | | Great looks, brilliant price | Jan 00 | £200 | 8 |
| VHS | Sanyo VHR-798 | 365/6 | ● | ● | ● | | | 2 | | With satellite control and 3D surround sound | Sep 98 | £280 | 8 |
| **VHS** | **Sanyo VHR-777** | **365/6** | ● | ● | | | | **2** | | **Well specified deck, excellent value. BB** | **Aug 97** | **£300** | **9** |
| **VHS** | **Sharp VC-MH68HM** | **365/8** | ● | ● | | | | **2** | | **Excellent value. BB** | **Oct 97** | **£280** | **9** |
| **VHS** | **Sony SLV-F990** | **31/8** | ● | ● | ● | | ● | **2** | | **Flagship, well-specified machine. BB** | **May 99** | **£400** | **9** |
| VHS | Sony SLV-F900 | 31/8 | ● | ● | ● | | | 2 | | Easy to use, decent performance, features Smartfile | Nov 98 | £450 | 8 |
| **VHS** | **Sony SLV-SF99** | **N/A** | ● | ● | ● | | ● | **2** | | **A state-of-the-art triumph. BB** | **Jan 00** | **£380** | **9** |

## NICAM VCRs (CONTINUED)

| Format | Model | Timer | Index search | PDC | Front AV inputs | Insert edit | Audio dub | Scart | S-video | Comments | Test date | Guide price | Rating (1-10) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **DV** | **Sony DHR-1000** | **31/8** | | ● | ● | ● | ● | **2** | ● | **Revolutionary digital deck, outstanding pics. BB** | **Sep 96** | **£3,300** | **9** |
| **VHS** | **Sony SLV-SE80UX** | **31/8** | ● | ● | ● | | ● | **2** | | **Feature-packed deck, exudes quality. BB** | **Oct 99** | **£280** | **9** |
| VHS | Thomson VPH6697 | 31/8 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | 2 | | Unconventional but effective, feature-packed deck | Jan 97 | £500 | 8 |
| **VHS** | **Thomson VPH6790** | **31/8** | ● | ● | ● | ● | | **2** | | **Easy to use, great to listen to. BB** | **Oct 97** | **£500** | **9** |
| **VHS** | **Thomson VPH6990** | **31/8** | ● | ● | ● | ● | | **2** | | **Great features and ease of use. BB** | **Feb 99** | **£370** | **9** |
| **VHS** | **Toshiba V858B** | **365/6** | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | **2** | | **Good picture and sound, satellite control. BB** | **Nov 98** | **£400** | **9** |
| **VHS** | **Toshiba V-727B** | **31/6** | ● | ● | ● | | ● | **2** | | **Bundles of features. BB** | **Aug 97** | **£360** | **9** |
| **VHS** | **Toshiba V859B** | **31/6** | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | **2** | | **Great audio/satellite control. BB** | **Aug 99** | **£330** | **9** |
| VHS | Toshiba V-857B | 31/6 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | 2 | | Packed with features. Fair performer | Oct 97 | £460 | 8 |

## MONO VCRs

| Format | Model | Timer | Index search | PDC | Front AV inputs | Insert edit | Audio dub | Scart | S-video | Comments | Test date | Guide price | Rating (1-10) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **VHS** | **Akai VS-G270** | **365/8** | ● | ● | | | | **2** | | **Very good AV performance. BB** | **Feb 98** | **£200** | **9** |
| VHS | Aiwa HV-GX900 | 31/8 | ● | | | | | 1 | | Good 'workhorse' VCR for day-to-day use | Dec 99 | £130 | 8 |
| **VHS** | **Hitachi VT-M6331** | **31/6** | ● | ● | | | | **2** | | **Solid machine for the money. BB** | **Mar 99** | **£170** | **9** |
| **VHS** | **Mitsubishi HS-740** | **31/8** | ● | ● | | | | **2** | | **No weaknesses, a deserving BB** | **Dec 97** | **£230** | **9** |
| VHS | Mitsubishi HS-721 | 31/8 | ● | ● | | | | 2 | | Two head version of HS-740 | Feb 98 | £200 | 8 |
| **VHS** | **Panasonic NV-SD220** | **31/8** | ● | ● | | | | **2** | | **Strong all round Best Buy** | **Feb 98** | **£250** | **9** |
| **VHS** | **Panasonic NV-SD240** | **31/8** | ● | ● | | | | **2** | | **User-friendly and feature-laden. BB** | **Jul 99** | **£190** | **9** |
| **VHS** | **Sony SLV-E220** | **365/6** | | | | | | **1** | | **Low on features, but great performer. BB** | **Dec 97** | **£230** | **9** |
| **VHS** | **Toshiba V-228B** | **31/6** | | ● | | | | **2** | | **Quality deck at low price. BB** | **Jul 98** | **£230** | **9** |

### KEY TO VCRs

**Timer:** The number of programmes (events) the VCR can be programmed to record and how far ahead it can be set (in days) All VCRs listed have the VideoPlus recording system.
**Index Search:** A recorded index code is used to locate a specific point on the tape.
**PDC (Programme Delivery Control):** Automatically adjusts the timer if programmes are delayed. Used by BBC, Channel 4, Channel 5 and some ITV companies. **Audio System:** Nicam means it is able to decode digital stereo TV sound.
**Front AV Inputs:** Phono and/or S-video and audio sockets mounted on the front panel for easy camcorder connection. **Insert Edit:** Allows you to drop new recordings over old without picture break-up at entry/exit points.
**Audio Dub:** Lets you record a new soundtrack while retaining the original picture.
**Scart/ S-video:** We've listed these to help you hook up two recorders for copy/edit work.
**Onscreen Graphics:** Displays VCR and timer commands on screen.
**Test Date:** If we've reviewed a machine you're interested in, you can order a past copy from our Test Reprints service.
**Rating:** Based on full tests.

## Hi8 CAMCORDERS

| Model | Focal range (mm) | Image stabiliser | Exposure control | Focus control | External mic. | Audio system | Weight (kg) | Colour viewfinder | Comments | Test date | Guide price | Rating (1-10) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Canon UC-X10Hi | 4-80/22x | ● | Auto | ● | ● | Stereo | 1.07 | | Good all rounder | Oct 97 | £700 | 8 |
| Samsung VP-A22 | 3.9-62.4/16x | ● | Auto | | ● | Mono | | | Great price, lacking manual controls | Jul 98 | £350 | 7 |
| Samsung VP-L95 | 3.9-62.4/16x | ● | Auto | ● | ● | Stereo | 1.29 | | Superb value budget Hi8 | May 98 | £750 | 8 |
| **Sony CCD-TR1100** | **4-82/21x** | ● | **A/M** | ● | ● | **Stereo** | **1.0** | | **Excellent performer. BB** | **Oct 97** | **£900** | **9** |
| **Sony CCD-TR3200** | **4-82/21x/84x** | ● | **A/M** | ● | ● | **Stereo** | **1.0** | | **Top-notch all-rounder. BB** | **Apr 99** | **£800** | **9** |
| Sony CCD-TR820 | 4.1-61.5/15x | ● | A/M | ● | ● | Stereo | 0.9 | | Good performance and features | Mar 98 | £700 | 8 |

## 8MM CAMCORDERS

| Model | Focal range | Image stabiliser | Exposure control | Manual focus | External mic. | Audio system | Weight (kg) | Colour viewfinder | Comments | Test date | Guide price | Rating (1-10) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Canon UC5000** | **4-80/20x** | | **A/M** | ● | ● | **Stereo** | **0.73** | | **Well specified budget model. BB** | **Dec 97** | **£500** | **9** |
| **Canon UC5500** | **4-80/20x** | | **A/M** | ● | ● | **Stereo** | **0.73** | ● | **As above with colour viewfinder. BB** | **Dec 97** | **£550** | **9** |
| **Canon UC900** | **4-80/20x** | ● | **A/M** | ● | ● | **Stereo** | **1.0** | | **Best Value Camcorder of the Year. BB** | **Nov 96** | **£650** | **10** |
| Sony CCD-TRV24 | 4.1-61.5/15x | ● | A/M | ● | ● | Mono | 0.89 | | Fair performer | April 98 | £750 | 7 |
| Sony TR401 | 5.3-68.9/13x | | Auto | | ● | Mono | 0.94 | | Well specified good quality budget model | Jun 97 | £550 | 8 |
| **Sony CCD-TR411** | **4.1-65.8/16** | | **Auto** | | ● | **Mono** | **N/A** | | **High-performance cam. BB** | **Jul 98** | **£450** | **9** |
| Sony CCD-TRV27 | 4.1-73.8/18x | | A/M | ● | ● | Mono | 0.99 | | Unfussy, basic cam | Aug 98 | £650 | 9 |
| **Sony CCD-TRV35** | **4.1-73.8/18x** | ● | **A/M** | ● | ● | **Mono** | **N/A** | | **Top features and AV performance. BB** | **Aug 98** | **£650** | **9** |

# TESTED products

## SUPER VHS-C CAMCORDERS

| Model | Focal range | Image stabiliser | Exposure control | Manual focus | External mic. | Audio system | Audio dub | Weight (kg) | Colour viewfinder | Comments | Test date | Guide price | Rating (1-10) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **JVC GR-SZ5000** | **3.8-68.4/18x** | ● | **A/M** | ● | ● | **Stereo** | ● | **1.08** | | **Excellent value. BB** | **Oct 97** | **£900** | **9** |
| **Panasonic NV-SX50** | **3.9-66.3/17x** | ● | **A/M** | ● | ● | **Stereo** | ● | **0.8** | ● | **Top picture quality. BB** | **Apr 99** | **£800** | **9** |

## VHS-C CAMCORDERS

| Model | Focal range | Image stabiliser | Exposure control | Mic. socket | Audio system | Audio dub | Weight (kg) | Manual focus | Comments | Test date | Guide price | Rating (1-10) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **JVC GR-AX670** | **3.8-68.4/18x** | ● | **A/M** | ● | **Mono** | ● | **0.82** | ● | **Stacked with features. BB** | **Jun 97** | **£450** | **9** |
| **JVC GR-AX680** | **3.8-83.6/22x** | ● | **A/M** | ● | **Mono** | | **1.01** | ● | **Good picture quality and features. BB** | **Oct 98** | **£500** | **9** |
| **JVC GR-AX480** | **3.8-83.6/22x** | ● | **A/M** | | **Stereo** | ● | **0.9** | ● | **Decent price, manual features. BB** | **Feb 99** | **£450** | **9** |
| **JVC GR-FXM15** | **3.9-62.4/16x** | ● | **A/M** | | **Mono** | ● | **0.9** | ● | **Good price, all essential features. BB** | **Jul 99** | **£500** | **9** |
| Panasonic NV-RX9 | 3.9-54.6/14x | ● | Auto | | Mono | | 0.86 | | Fair value budget model | Jun 97 | £450 | 7 |
| Panasonic NV-RX11 | 3.8-81.9/21x | | A/M | | Mono | | N/A | ● | Easy to handle, lacks features | Jul 98 | £400 | 8 |
| Panasonic NV-VX21 | 3.9-81.9/21x | | A/M | | Mono | | N/A | ● | Fair picture but rather mediocre | Aug 98 | £550 | 6 |
| Panasonic NV-RX61 | 3.8-79.8./21x | | A/M | ● | Mono | | N/A | ● | Good features and easy to use | Oct 98 | £500 | 8 |
| Samsung VP-L50 | 3.9-62.4/16x | ● | Auto | ● | Mono | | N/A | | Good picture and easy to use | Aug 98 | £530 | 7 |

## DIGITAL VIDEO CAMCORDERS

| Format | Model | Focal range | Image stabiliser | Exposure control | Manual focus | External mic | Audio system | Audio dub | Weight (kg) | Colour viewfinder | Comments | Test date | Guide price | Rating (1-10) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **DV** | **Canon DM-MV20** | **4.1-49/12x** | ● | **M/A** | ● | ● | **PCM** | ● | **0.66** | ● | **Stunning AV performer. BB** | **Aug 99** | **£1,000** | **9** |
| **DV** | **Canon MV1** | **5.4-75/14x** | ● | **M/A** | ● | ● | **PCM** | ● | **0.93** | ● | **Flexible high performer. BB** | **Dec 97** | **£1,600** | **9** |
| **DV** | **Canon MV10** | **3.9-62/16x** | ● | **M/A** | ● | ● | **PCM** | ● | **N/A** | ● | **Sensible design, quality output. BB** | **Mar 99** | **£1,400** | **9** |
| **DV** | **Canon MV100** | **3.9-42/11x** | ● | **M/A** | ● | ● | **PCM** | | **N/A** | ● | **Excellent AV performer. BB** | **Sep 98** | **£1,200** | **9** |
| **DV** | **Canon XM1** | **4.2-84/20x** | ● | **M/A** | ● | ● | **PCM** | ● | **1.25** | ● | **Great pic quality/ease of use. BB** | **Mar 00** | **£1,600** | **9** |
| **DV** | **JVC GR-DVM1** | **4.5-45/10x** | ● | **M/A** | ● | ● | **PCM** | ● | **0.73** | ● | **LCD version of GRDV1. BB** | **Sep 97** | **£2,000** | **9** |
| **DV** | **JVC GR-DVL9000** | **5-50/10x** | ● | **M/A** | ● | ● | **PCM** | ● | **0.78** | ● | **Full marks for picture/price. BB** | **Jun 98** | **£1,800** | **9** |
| **DV** | **JVC GR-DVF10** | **3.9-62/16x** | ● | **M/A** | ● | ● | **PCM** | ● | **0.95** | ● | **Amazing price for a DV cam. BB** | **May 99** | **£700** | **9** |
| **DV** | **Panasonic NV-DS5** | **4.7-47/10x** | ● | **M/A** | ● | ● | **PCM** | ● | **0.7** | ● | **Good on features/performance. BB** | **May 98** | **£1,700** | **9** |
| **DV** | **Panasonic NV-DS11** | **3.8-76/20x** | ● | **M/A** | ● | ● | **PCM** | ● | **0.64** | ● | **Well-designed, efficient cam. BB** | **Dec 99** | **£700** | **9** |
| **DV** | **Panasonic NV-DX100** | **4-48/12x** | ● | **M/A** | ● | ● | **PCM** | ● | **0.8** | ● | **Sensational picture/sound quality. BB** | **Jan 98** | **£2,000** | **10** |
| **DV** | **Panasonic NV-DA1** | **4-48/12x** | ● | **M/A** | ● | ● | **PCM** | ● | **0.8** | ● | **Outstanding picture/sound . BB** | **Dec 98** | **£1,300** | **9** |
| DV | Sharp VL-SD20 | 4.5-45/10x | ● | M/A | ● | ● | PCM | ● | 0.56 | | Bit bulky but great DV intro cam. BB | Mar 00 | £850 | 8 |
| **DV** | **Sony DCR-VX700** | **5.9-59/10x** | ● | **Man** | ● | ● | **PCM** | ● | **1.4** | ● | **Digital revolution started here. BB** | **Mar 96** | **£2,300** | **9** |
| **Dig8** | **Sony DCR-TR7000** | **3.6-72/20x** | ● | **Man** | ● | ● | **PCM** | ● | **0.95** | ● | **DV at bargain price. BB** | **May 99** | **£900** | **9** |
| **Dig8** | **Sony DCR-TRV110** | **3.6-72/20x** | ● | **Man** | ● | ● | **PCM** | | **1** | ● | **Spans analogue/digital divide. BB** | **Oct 99** | **£780** | **9** |
| **DV** | **Sony DCR-PC100** | **4.2-42/10x** | ● | **M/A** | ● | ● | **PCM** | ● | **0.67** | ● | **Unparalleled results. Superb. BB** | **Jan 00** | **£1,500** | **9** |

### KEY TO CAMCORDER TABLES

**Focal Range:** Indicates the range of angles which the lens can convert at its wide and tele settings. **Image Stabiliser:** Built-in anti-shake mechanism. **Exposure Control: A for automatic, M for manual.** Exposure in many camcorders is fully automatic, but some have a backlight compensator for shooting against the light, or a manual iris for deliberate under or over-exposure. **Manual focus :** Serious users often prefer a manual option for greater control. **External Mic:** A socket to plug in an off-camera microphone. **Audio System:** Mono or stereo. **Audio Dub:** Replaces soundtrack without interfering with the picture. **Weight:** Including supplied battery and cassette. **Colour Viewfinder:** As distinct from the black and white variety. **Test Date:** If we've reviewed a camcorder you're interested in, you can order a copy of the test from our Test Reprints service. If the Test Reprints page is missing from this issue please telephone 020 7331 1000 for guidance. **Rating:** Ratings are based on full tests of equipment.

## SURROUND SOUND AMPLIFIERS

| Model | Dolby Digital | DTS | DPL | THX | Front amp (W) | Centre amp (W) | Rear amp (W) | Video inputs | S-video compat. | Audio inputs | Comments | Test date | Guide price | Rating (1-10) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Arcam Alpha AV50** | | | ● | | **2x50** | **55** | **2x50** | **2** | | **7** | **Loads of video inputs, great sound. BB** | **Sep 97** | **£700** | **9** |
| Denon AVC-A1 | ● | | ● | | 2x140 | 140 | 2x140 | 7 | ● | 11 | Excellent one box Dolby Digital solution | Oct 97 | £2,500 | 8 |
| Denon AVR-900 | | | ● | | 2x60 | 60 | 2x15 | 2 | | 3 | Fine budget amp. Good value | Jan 96 | £350 | 8 |
| **Denon AVC-1800** | | | ● | | **2x50** | **50** | **2x50** | **2** | ● | **4** | **Best Value Home Cinema Amp of the Year. BB** | **May 96** | **£550** | **10** |
| **Denon AVC-3800** | ● | | ● | | **2x90** | **90** | **2x90** | **4** | ● | **11** | **Denon's first integrated DD amp. BB** | **Jun 97** | **£1,800** | **10** |
| **Denon AVP-A1** | ● | | ● | ● | **2x150** | **150** | **2x150** | **3** | ● | **11** | **Best Home Cinema Innovation of the Year. BB** | **Nov 96** | **£4,900** | **10** |
| **Futronix HTS-650** | | | ● | | **2x25** | **25** | **2x12** | | | **4** | **Great sound at a great price. BB** | **Aug 98** | **£150** | **9** |
| Harman Kardon AVI100 | | | ● | | 2x30 | 30 | 2x20 | 2 | | 5 | Good performer for an excellent price | May 98 | £200 | 8 |
| **Pioneer VSA805S** | | | ● | | **2x80** | **80** | **2x40** | **2** | | **4** | **Pro-Logic amp. BB** | **Feb 97** | **£450** | **9** |
| Rotel RB-956X | N/A | | | | 2x30 | 30 | 2x30 | N/A | | N/A | Price includes RSP-960X preamp/decoder | Jan 97 | £725 | 8 |
| Rotel RB 985 | | | ● | ● | 2x100 | 100 | 2x100 | N/A | | N/A | Best Buy THX rated power amp | Jan 97 | £725 | 9 |
| **Sony STR-DB930** | ● | ● | ● | | **5x100** | **100** | **2x100** | **3** | | **10** | **Superb upgrade from DB925. Definite BB** | **Dec 99** | **£600** | **9** |
| **Sony TA-VE700** | | | ● | | **2x45** | **45** | **2x12.5** | **3** | ● | **8** | **Budget Pro-Logic amp. BB** | **Jun 97** | **£350** | **9** |
| Sunfire Cinema Grand | | | ● | | 2x100 | 100 | 2x40 | | | 10 | Powerful, but suffers by comparison | Mar 98 | £2,280 | 7 |
| **Yamaha DSP-A1** | ● | ● | | | **2x110** | **110** | **2x110** | **2** | ● | **10** | **Supreme value and AV performance. BB** | **Jun 98** | **£1,600** | **10** |
| **Yamaha DSP-A1092** | ● | | ● | | **2x80** | **80** | **2x80** | **2** | ● | **9** | **Superb all-round amp. BB** | **Sep 97** | **£850** | **10** |
| **Yamaha DSP-A592** | | | ● | | **2x70** | **70** | **2x35** | **4** | ● | **8** | **Dirt cheap, superb performer. BB** | **Jan 98** | **£330** | **9** |
| **Yamaha DSP-A3090** | ● | | ● | | **2x80** | **80** | **2x25** | **5** | ● | **10** | **Best Home Cinema Amp of the Year. BB** | **Sep 96** | **£1,700** | **10** |

## KEY TO AMPS, RECEIVERS, PROCESSORS AND SYSTEMS

**System:** Various types are available, including integrated amplifiers, processors (which amplify the effects channels only), receivers (incorporating an amplifier and a tuner) and mini and midi systems, complete with Dolby Surround or Dolby Pro-Logic (DPL) amplifier, tape deck(s), tuner and sometimes a CD player. **Surround Sound:** Dolby Surround and Pro-Logic both offer a rear surround channel. Additionally, Pro-Logic has a centre channel for speech. Dolby Digital AC-3 offers 5.1 discrete channels. THX is a stringent set of sonic home cinema standards. **Front/Centre/Rear Amplification:** The RMS (Root Mean Square) or average power output per channel. **Video Inputs:** Total number of composite inputs for video sources, including VCR, satellite and laser disc. **S-video Compatible:** Dedicated S-video inputs for high-band video processing. **Audio Inputs:** Total number. **Test Date:** If we've reviewed an AV amplifier you're interested in, you can order a copy of the test from our Test Reprints service. **Rating:** Ratings are based on full tests of equipment.

## SURROUND SOUND RECEIVERS

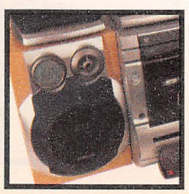
| Model | Surround sound | Front amp (W) | Centre amp (W) | Rear amp (W) | Video inputs | S-video compat. | Audio inputs | Comments | Test date | Guide price | Rating (1-10) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Aiwa AV-X100** | **Pro-Logic** | **2x60** | **60** | **2x10** | **1** | | **5** | **Great performance and price. BB** | **May 97** | **£250** | **9** |
| **Denon AVR 3200** | **DD/DPL** | **2x80** | **80** | **2x80** | **2** | ● | **6** | **Classy Dolby Digital performer. BB** | **Jan 98** | **£1,000** | **9** |
| Denon AVR-600RD | Pro-Logic | 2x50 | 50 | 2x15 | 2 | | 5 | Easy to use, good value for money | Mar 97 | £300 | 8 |
| Denon AVR-3300 | DD/DTS | 2x105 | 105 | 2x105 | 2 | ● | 9 | Classy performer & good value | Jan 00 | £800 | 8 |
| **Harman Kardon AVR11** | **Pro-Logic** | **2x40** | **45** | **2x22.5** | **2** | | **4** | **Great performance for budget model. BB** | **April 98** | **£300** | **9** |
| **Harman Kardon AVR80** | **THX/DPL** | **2x85** | **85** | **2x60** | **2** | ● | **3** | **Full-blown receiver. BB** | **Sep 96** | **£1,500** | **9** |
| **Harman Kardon AVR18** | **DPL** | **2x35** | **35** | **2x35** | **2** | | **3** | **Great-sounding DPL receiver. BB** | **Jun 99** | **£300** | **9** |
| **JVC RX-416VBK** | **Pro-Logic** | **2x50** | **50** | **2x13** | **2** | | **5** | **Budget Pro-Logic receiver. BB** | **Apr 96** | **£270** | **9** |
| **Kenwood KR-V5570** | **Pro-Logic** | **2x50** | **50** | **2x20** | **2** | | **5** | **Great value Pro-Logic receiver. BB** | **Feb 96** | **£299** | **9** |
| **Kenwood KR-V7070** | **Pro-Logic** | **2x100** | **100** | **2x28** | **2** | | **7** | **Great budget receiver. BB** | **Sep 95** | **£400** | **10** |
| **Kenwood KR-7080** | **Pro-Logic** | **2x100W** | **100W** | **2x28W** | **2** | | **4** | **Budget receiver with RDS tuner. BB** | **Jul 96** | **£380** | **9** |
| Kenwood KR-V8090 | Pro-Logic | 2x100 | 100 | 2x100 | 3 | | 4 | Great price for what you get | Nov 98 | £300 | 8 |
| Kenwood KR-V888D | DD/DPL | 2x120 | 120 | 2x60 | 2 | | 6 | Powerful, but disappointing lack of S-video | Mar 98 | £1,000 | 8 |
| Kenwood KRF-V7010 | Pro-Logic | 2x110 | 110 | 2x55 | 3 | ● | 4 | Top marks for price and sound | Sep 97 | £400 | 8 |
| Onkyo TX-DS838 | DD/DPL | 2x90 | 90 | 2x50 | 2 | ● | 9 | Superb performance, reasonably priced | May 97 | £1,300 | 8 |
| **Onkyo TX-SV444** | **Pro-Logic** | **2x60** | **60** | **2x20** | **1** | | **3** | **Good value, few weaknesses. BB** | **May 98** | **£330** | **9** |
| **Onkyo TX-SV828** | **DPL/THX** | **2x90** | **90** | **2x50** | **4** | ● | **4** | **THX powerhouse. BB** | **Mar 97** | **£1,300** | **9** |
| Onkyo TX-SV434 | Pro-Logic | 2x55 | 55 | 2x20 | 1 | | 4 | Competitively priced, fair performer | Apr 97 | £400 | 7 |
| Pioneer VSX-908RDS | DD/THX | 2x110 | 110 | 2x110 | 5 | | 9 | Gutsy amp – perfect for home cinema | Jan 00 | £850 | 8 |
| **Pioneer VSA-E07** | **DD/THX** | **2x130** | **130** | **2x130** | **5** | | **10** | **Superior performance, a dream to use. BB** | **Mar 00** | **£1,300** | **9** |
| **Sherwood R-925RDS** | **DD/DPL** | **2x100** | **100** | **2x100** | **5** | | **11** | **Stunning Dolby Digital performance. BB** | **April 98** | **£400** | **9** |
| **Sherwood R-945RDS** | **DD/DTS** | **2x100** | **100** | **2x100** | **6** | ● | **8** | **Cracking receiver with DTS/AC-3. BB** | **Jul 98** | **£600** | **10** |
| **Sherwood R-125RDS** | **Pro-Logic** | **2x35** | **35** | **2x35** | **1** | | **3** | **Incredibly good value. BB** | **Jul 97** | **£150** | **9** |
| **Sherwood RV-4080R** | **Pro-Logic** | **2x30** | **30** | **2x30** | **1** | | **6** | **Amazing value. BB** | **Apr 99** | **£100** | **9** |
| **Yamaha DSP-A595** | **DD/DPL** | **2x65** | **65** | **2x65** | **4** | ● | **6** | **Excellent receiver at a great price. BB** | **Aug 99** | **£300** | **9** |

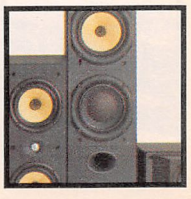
## SURROUND SOUND PROCESSORS

| Model | Dolby Digital | DTS | Pro-Logic | THX | Video inputs | S-video compat. | Audio inputs | Comments | Test date | Guide price | Rating (1-10) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Cyrus AV Master** | | | ● | | **N/A** | | **4** | **Stylish upgrade. BB** | **Aug 96** | **£650** | **9** |
| **Denon AVD-2000** | ● | | ● | | **N/A** | | **5** | **Brilliant piece of kit. BB** | **Jul 98** | **£380** | **10** |
| **Denon AVD-1000** | | ● | | | | | **2** | **Superb DTS sound performance. BB** | **May 99** | **£300** | **9** |
| **Lexicon DC-2** | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | **8** | **Consummate home cinema performer. BB** | **Jul 99** | **£3,800** | **9** |
| **Marantz DP870U** | ● | | ● | | | | **6** | **Dolby Digital decoder. BB** | **Apr 97** | **£600** | **9** |
| **Onkyo ED-901** | ● | | ● | ● | **2** | ● | **5** | **Dolby Digital decoding processor. BB** | **Mar 97** | **£700** | **9** |
| Pioneer SP-D07 | ● | | ● | | | | 5 | Dolby Digital decoder | Apr 97 | £800 | 7 |
| **Pioneer VSA-E06** | ● | | ● | ● | **3** | ● | **12** | **Great looking. BB** | **Nov 97** | **£1,400** | **9** |
| Sony SDP-EP9OES | ● | | ● | | N/A | | 5 | Excellent sound quality and range of inputs | Jul 98 | £600 | 8 |
| **Sony SDP-EP9ES** | ● | | ● | | | | **5** | **Offers MPEG 5.1. BB** | **Oct 97** | **£600** | **9** |
| Technics SH-AC-300 | ● | | ● | | N/A | | 3 | Great price and sound; no Dolby Digital RF input | Jul 98 | £300 | 8 |
| Yamaha DDP-2 | ● | | ● | | N/A | | 2 | Excellent sound and price | Jul 98 | £350 | 7 |

## SURROUND MINI AND MIDI SYSTEMS

| System | Model | Surround sound | Front amp (W) | Centre amp (W) | Rear amp (W) | Video inputs | Audio inputs | Comments | Test date | Guide price | Rating (1-10) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Midi | Aiwa Z-VR88 | Pro-Logic | 2x100 | 38 | 2x38 | | 2 | Good power handling and price | Dec 98 | £400 | 8 |
| **Mini** | **Akai TX-710** | **Pro-Logic** | **2x50** | **26** | **2x26** | | **2** | **Budget Pro-Logic mini system. BB** | **Feb 97** | **£400** | **9** |
| **Mini** | **Denon D-77/AVC-99** | **Pro-Logic** | **3x30** | **15** | **2x15** | | **5** | **Full marks for sound. BB** | **Jul 97** | **£1,150** | **9** |
| **Mini** | **JVC CA-MXJ75R** | **Pro-Logic** | **2x100** | **25** | **2x25** | | **1** | **Exceptional system. BB** | **May 99** | **£300** | **9** |
| **Mini** | **Philips FW672P** | **Pro-Logic** | **2x65** | **65** | **2x35** | | **1** | **Home One-Box Cinema System of the Year. BB** | **Dec 96** | **£600** | **9** |
| **Mini** | **Philips FW790P** | **Pro-Logic** | **2x65** | **65** | **2x35** | **0** | **2** | **Meaty front soundstage and good price. BB** | **May 98** | **£500** | **9** |
| Mini | Samsung Max-632P | Pro-Logic | 2x50 | 20 | 2x10 | 0 | 5 | Good value | Mar 98 | £380 | 8 |
| **Mini** | **Sharp CD-C491H** | **Pro-Logic/DD** | **2x80** | **80** | **2x80** | **2** | **2** | **'Wipes the floor with other mini systems'. BB** | **Feb 99** | **£600** | **9** |
| **N/A** | **Sony DPL-VE110** | **Pro-Logic** | **2 x 25** | **25** | **2 x 10** | | **4** | **Cheap surround sound with active sub. BB** | **Feb 98** | **£380** | **9** |





# TESTED products

## HOME CINEMA SPEAKER PACKAGES

| Model | System | Comments | Test date | Guide price | Rating (1-10) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **AE 100 series** | **2 x surrounds + 1 centre + 1 x subwoofer** | **What home cinema was invented for. BB** | **Apr 99** | **£850** | **9** |
| Aura System | 2 x LST 627M + 2 x LSB627M + LSC-537M + LSS-107A | Hard-hitting with excellent treble | Sep 98 | £980 | 8 |
| B&W 600 Series 2 | 603 S2 + LCR6 S2 + DS6 | Powerful, controlled Pro-Logic system | Dec 99 | £1,300 | 8 |
| **Celestion C series** | **2 x C2 + 2 x C5r + C4c Centre + C6s** | **Fabulous performance. Definite BB** | **Jan 00** | **£1,900** | **10** |
| **Energy Take5 system** | **3 x Take2 + 1 x Take1 + 1 x e:XL-S8 sub** | **Excellent micro system. BB** | **Feb 00** | **£650** | **9** |
| **Mirage Omnipolar system** | **2 x OM-6 + 2 x OM-C2 + 2 x OM-R2 + BPS-400** | **Best Buy. Well worth the money** | **Apr 99** | **£5,000** | **9** |
| **Jamo speaker package** | **2 x Art + 2 x Artina + Art Centre +SW-505E** | **Solid and well matched. Best Buy** | **Sep 98** | **£890** | **9** |
| JBL CM 52 system | 4 x CM52 + Sub 10 + CM Centre | Improved performance on CM42 system | Sep 98 | £600 | 8 |
| Kef Q Series | 2 x Q35 + 2xQ15 + 1 x Q95C + 1x Q30B | Excellent fronts and sub | Mar 98 | £1,100 | 8 |
| **Mirage AVS-500** | **AVS-200 x 4 + AVS-100 + PS-8CE** | **Best Buy. Fresh and clear sound** | **Sep 98** | **£800** | **9** |
| **Polk Audio RM65/140 system** | **4 x RM2300 + 1 x RM2600 + 1 x PSW140 2 x Cube rear** | **Best Buy. Great system, superb sub** | **Sep 99** | **£1,350** | **9** |
| Rogers Speaker System | 2xGS6 + 1xCC1 + xGS5 + 1xASB60. | Good mid-range home cinema package. | Jun 98 | £1,955 | 8 |
| **Tannoy Definition D-500/D-750** | **4 x D-500 + 1 x D-750** | **Stunning 3D soundstage, top marks for D-750** | **Feb 98** | **£5,000** | **10** |
| Yamaha NS-P400 system | 2 x NS40 + 1 x NS-C40 + 2 x NS-E40 + 1 x SW-P40 sub | Good price and performance | Sep 98 | £250 | 8 |

### KEY TO SPEAKERS

Most conventional hi-fi speakers can be used as home cinema speakers. However, if you plan to use any speaker(s) within a few feet of the TV screen, you must choose a magnetically shielded model. Pro-Logic Centre Speakers are designed to handle dialogue in a Pro-Logic system. They should be sited on, or beneath, the TV. Subwoofers are low-frequency speakers designed to handle bass signals. They're sometimes used in conjunction with tiny satellite speakers, which handle the mid and high frequencies.

**Magnetically Shielded:** Fitted with a second magnet, of opposite polarity from that fitted to conventional hi-fi loud-speaker, to prevent colour-staining of the picture when placed close to the TV.

**Impedance:** Measurement of the load which the speaker presents to the amplifier.

**Sensitivity:** The efficiency of a speaker, measured in terms of the decibel (dB) rating at 1m from the speaker with 1W of amplification.

## DVD PLAYERS

| System | Model | RGB | Digital outputs | Scart | S-video | Comment | Test date | Guide price | Rating (1-10) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **PAL/NTSC** | **Bush DVD2000** | | ● | **1** | ● | **Classy looks and excellent picture performance. BB** | **Feb 00** | **£200** | **9** |
| **PAL/NTSC** | **Denon DVD-3000** | ● | ● | **2** | ● | **Superior DVD with Dolby Digital/MPEG 5.1 decoder. BB** | **Oct 98** | **£700** | **9** |
| **PAL/NTSC** | **Hitachi DV-P250** | ● | ● | **1** | ● | **Superior to bargain decks for little extra cash. BB** | **Dec 99** | **£320** | **9** |
| PAL/NTSC | Konka KD-1800 | | ● | 0 | ● | Highly impressive R1 player at incredible price | Feb 00 | £100 | 8 |
| **PAL/NTSC** | **LG DVD-2330** | | ● | **1** | ● | **Solid perfomer, very easy to use. BB** | **Feb 00** | **£250** | **9** |
| **PAL/NTSC** | **Matsui DVD 110** | ● | ● | **1** | | **Real bargain and great performer for the price. BB** | **Feb 00** | **£180** | **9** |
| **PAL/NTSC** | **Panasonic DVD-A350** | ● | ● | **2** | ● | **Awesome DVD with Dolby Digital/MPEG 5.1 decoder. BB** | **May 98** | **£700** | **9** |
| **PAL/NTSC** | **Panasonic DVDA360** | ● | ● | **2** | ● | **Superlative picture & sound plus DTS decoding. BB** | **Jan 00** | **£550** | **9** |
| PAL/NTSC | Panasonic DVD-A160 | | ● | 2 | ● | Reasonable quality but overpriced player | Mar 00 | £300 | 8 |
| PAL/NTSC | Philips DVD750 | ● | 2 | ● | | Sonic prowess and a decent picture. | Feb 00 | £290 | 8 |
| PAL/NTSC | Pioneer NS-DV1 | | ● | 2 | ● | Great DVD player, shame about incorporated speaker package | Mar 00 | £1,500 | 8 |
| **PAL/NTSC** | **Pioneer CLD-D925** | | ● | **2** | | **Best Laser Disc Player of the Year winner. BB** | **Oct 96** | **£800** | **10** |
| **PAL/NTSC** | **Pioneer DV-606D** | | ● | **0** | ● | **Excellent Region 1 player, easily modifiable. BB** | **Dec 98** | **£500** | **9** |
| **PAL/NTSC** | **Pioneer DV-626** | ● | ● | **1** | ● | **Audiophile's delight. Lip-sync problems resolved. BB** | **Dec 99** | **£450** | **9** |
| **PAL/NTSC** | **Pioneer DVL909** | | ● | **2** | ● | **Stunning DVD/LD combi player. BB** | **Jun 98** | **£900** | **9** |
| **PAL/NTSC** | **Pioneer DV-717** | ● | ● | **2** | ● | **Excellent picture, sound and DTS included. BB** | **Feb 99** | **£600** | **9** |
| **PAL/NTSC** | **Pioneer DV-05** | ● | ● | **0** | ● | **THX-certified star player. BB** | **May 99** | **£600** | **9** |
| **PAL/NTSC** | **Pioneer DV-515** | ● | ● | **1** | ● | **Best Buy. DTS/Dolby Digital player. BB** | **Jul 99** | **£450** | **9** |
| **PAL/NTSC** | **Proline DVD1000** | ● | ● | **1** | ● | **Astonishing performance for the money. BB** | **Dec 99** | **£185** | **9** |
| **PAL/NTSC** | **Samsung DVD-807** | ● | ● | **1** | | **Best Buy. Revolutionary budget player. BB** | **Jun 99** | **£250** | **9** |
| **PAL/NTSC** | **Samsung DVD-709** | ● | ● | **1** | ● | **Amazing quality for a player at this price. BB** | **Oct 99** | **£250** | **9** |
| **PAL/NTSC** | **Samsung DVD-909** | ● | ● | **1** | ● | **Excellent performance for the money. BB** | **Nov 99** | **£380** | **9** |
| PAL/NTSC | Sony DVP-S325 | ● | ● | 2 | ● | Above-par, though not breathtaking performer | Mar 00 | £350 | 8 |
| **PAL/NTSC** | **Sony DVP-S725** | ● | ● | **2** | ● | **Very slick piece of kit, top-notch video processing. BB** | **Aug 99** | **£550** | **9** |
| **PAL/NTSC** | **Sony DVP-S525** | ● | ● | **2** | ● | **Top-notch mid-range machine at a decent price. BB** | **Sept 99** | **£450** | **9** |
| **PAL/NTSC** | **Sony DVP-F11** | | ● | **1** | ● | **Top-notch performance from portable player. BB** | **Jan 00** | **£400** | **9** |
| **PAL/NTSC** | **Sony DVP-CX850D** | ● | ● | **2** | ● | **State-of-the-art 200-disc changing player. BB** | **Mar 00** | **£600** | **9** |
| **PAL/NTSC** | **Thomson DTH-2000** | ● | ● | **2** | ● | **Exemplary DVD player for picture performance. BB** | **Aug 98** | **£500** | **9** |
| PAL/NTSC | Tatung TDV-2000 | | ● | 0 | ● | A performance that belies the price & decent feature list | Jan 00 | £300 | 8 |
| **PAL/NTSC** | **Toshiba SD-2109** | ● | ● | **2** | ● | **Impressive, easy to use performer. BB** | **Aug 99** | **£360** | **9** |
| **PAL/NTSC** | **Toshiba SD-3109** | ● | ● | **1** | ● | **Cracking dual-tray player with built-in DD decoder. BB** | **Nov 99** | **£500** | **9** |
| **PAL/NTSC** | **Toshiba SD-9000** | | ● | **0** | ● | **Classy looks & exemplary performance. BB** | **Jan 00** | **£800** | **9** |
| **PAL/NTSC** | **Yamaha DVD-S700** | | ● | **0** | ● | **Fine DVD player with Dolby Digital/MPEG 5.1 decoder. BB** | **Nov 98** | **£600** | **9** |
| **PAL/NTSC** | **Wharfedale DVD-750** | ● | ● | **1** | ● | **Easily hackable, good quality budget deck. BB** | **Feb 00** | **£180** | **9** |

### KEY TO DVD PLAYERS

**System:** Almost all Region 2 players are NTSC-compatible as well as PAL, because Japan is included in R2 and uses NTSC. This does not denote Region 1 compatibility, although American discs coded Region 0 will play on these players.

**RGB (Red/Green/Blue):** The best way to view an AV input, usually via Scart. Check for TV compatibility.

**S-video:** Second-best way to view an AV input, either via Scart or dedicated S-video input.

**Scart:** An inidication of the number of sockets.

**Digital output (for bitstream audio connection to surround sound decoder):** O= optical digtial output via fibre optic connection; C= coaxial digital output. Opinions vary as to which is best, so ideally look to have both.

**DTS (Digital Theatre Systems):** Rival 5.1-surround sound system to Dolby Digital. Connect player's digital output to a compatible receiver.

**Dolby Digital 5.1 outputs:** This means the Dolby Digital 5.1 channels are decoded internally & can be connected directly by phono sockets to a surround sound amplifier (a dedicated decoder/receiver is not required).

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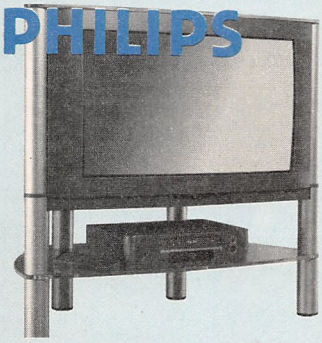

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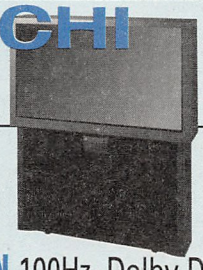

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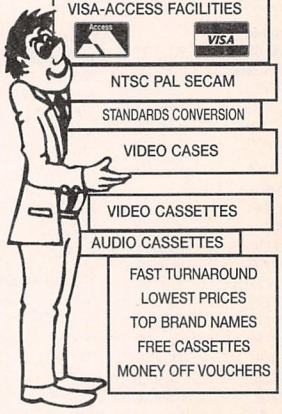

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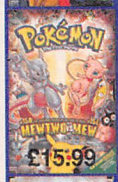

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# NUDES BULLETIN

## Scourge of Hollywood Johnny Deep reports on Sandra Bullock's animal passion, celebrity offspring and a soft-porn episode of *Teletubbies*

Remember Kevin Costner's chagrin and embarrassment at his nude scenes in low-budget flick *Sizzle Beach USA*? Now fans of Hollywood superstar Sandra Bullock are set to see more of her than ever before if B-movie king Roger Corman has his way.

It transpires that Corman has been sitting on a potential gold-mine for the past few years in the form of a low-budget exploitation movie entitled *Fire On The Amazon*. The movie was made prior to the 1994 Jan De Bont blockbuster *Speed* which pushed Bullock into the Hollywood elite. It features a scene in which Bullock and co-star Craig Sheffer drink a hallucinogenic drug from an Indian ceremonial bowl which (according to the film's press blurb) 'spawns the couple's passionate canine-style lovemaking in the jungle'.

However, the cinematic release of the movie has come a cropper due to Corman's decision to add an extra five seconds of footage to the lovemaking scene. When the film was submitted to the Motion Picture Association of America for a theatrical rating, it was slapped with the dreaded NC-17 tag.

A virtual guarantee of failure, films stuck with an NC-17 rating aren't picked up by the majority of cinema venues and the eventual video release wouldn't be stocked by family friendly rental stores such as Blockbuster, as people think that the films contain scenes of extreme pornography or violence.

Corman is furious at the MPAA's decision, especially as he originally submitted the movie for a rating in the wake of *Speed*'s release and obtained an R rating. Following this, Corman delayed *Fire On The Amazon*'s release to concentrate on an ultimately unsuccessful attempt to sell his movie library.

The director has now decided to cut a few seconds from the racy sequence, and intends to re-submit the film to the MPAA for a new rating. Even if the board still insists on further cuts to the film, Corman has vowed that this version will be the final cut, even if it means that the distributor has to start looking at legal recourse.

**Now, where's that print of *On The Amazon*?**

### IDENTIKIDDIE

Following the joyous news that Welsh hottie Catherine Zeta Jones is carrying Michael Douglas's child, speculation is rife as to what the child will eventually look like.

Now you can find out, courtesy of the US producers of the *Conan O'Brien Show*, who (as demonstrated in the pictures below) have predicted how the offspring of numerous celebrity matings might appear.

If you're tickled by the shots, check out *If They Mated*, which can be found at www.nbc.com/NBCconan/index.asp?section=mated

### TELETITTIES

The second dose of gratuitous nudity this month comes from a major Philippine television station, which added a new character to its transmission of the BBC's *Teletubbies* – a semi-nude actress.

The shocking incident occurred during an episode transmitted on January 4, when the usual exploits of Tinky Winky, Dipsy, La-La, Po, and their usual entourage of rabbits were interrupted for several seconds by a still image of Philippine actress Rosanna Roces, with an exposed breast.

An official from the GMA Network (the TV station responsible) has stated that the photograph was broadcast for 8sec when an employee, who was repairing a computer console, accidentally pressed the wrong button ❐

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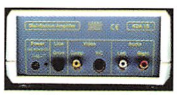

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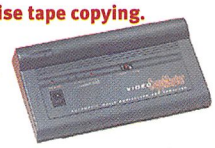

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